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# Peres loses Labor presidency bid

## Barak calls vote 'democratic decision'

By SARAH HONIG

The Labor Party convention last night overwhelmingly voted to keep off its agenda the proposal to appoint outgoing leader Shimon Peres to the new position of party president.

The vote was a victory for leadership frontrunner MK Ehud Barak and a humiliating blow to Peres. The results of the secret ballot were 1,403-856 against Peres.

### Convention of ill will, Page 3

Barak pledged to raise the issue again at the convention's sitting in September. Peres said prior to the vote that he would not be a candidate for the post at a later date.

By September, Barak could be party chairman and would then be able to define the presidency so the president would constitute little more than a figurehead.

Barak sought to appear magnanimous last night and spoke of "a democratic decision."

"We will lead the party after the June primaries and will work to achieve unity. We will lean on Peres's experience and greatness to win the next elections and to win the peace," he said.

Barak said there is "no reason for a split in the party. Peres will not join the Netanyahu government on his own. This is a wild speculation. Peres will not launch vendettas and Peres doesn't need titles. He is a giant in our time. He

is too big for all that."

Peres put his best face forward, insisting that "failure is not when one does not achieve a majority, but when he doesn't fight for what he believes. Nothing terrible happened today. It's all quite unimportant. What is important is the split in the nation and the right-religious coalition."

Peres said that friends had suggested the title of president. "It wasn't my initiative, but when friends worked so hard, I couldn't tell them it was for nothing. I couldn't let them down. The title isn't important and I didn't seek it."

At the same time, Peres said that "no one can send me home. No one can tell me to go. I will do what I think I need to do and what I think is right, and I need no one's permission for that. I need no formal mandate. I am a free man in good enough health to continue working very hard every day, and I expect to go on doing just that. I will now take the time to think what I will do next."

Concerned Barak supporters interpreted these statements as signifying Peres had not accepted the outcome and had not made a decision to step down.

Sources close to Barak said Peres's statements reflected closely what David Ben-Gurion said in 1965, shortly before defecting from Mapai. Some in Barak's entourage said Peres might split the party if he can get a third of the Knesset faction to follow him or he may join the Netanyahu government on his own, as part of his declared quest for peace.

"I don't feel personally hurt. This is not a personal question. I



Labor Party leadership candidate Ehud Barak (left), Knesset faction head Ra'anan Cohen, and chairman Shimon Peres talk with a reporter at the party convention in Tel Aviv yesterday.

feel the time has been running out for peace ever since the Rabin assassination and I want to impart the urgency for the cause of peace," Peres said.

MK Dalia Itzik, a Peres ally who supports Barak in the primary, said yesterday was "a sad day. The

party told Peres that it doesn't want him any more. They told him he is free of all commitments and of the fetters which bind him to the party."

Another Peres supporter, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, charged that "Labor beheaded

itself yesterday."

MK Yossi Beilin, who is running against Barak in the primary, said that "the best way for Labor members to right the wrong is to vote for me in the primary. I will invite Peres to be president if I win."

"This whole display of power on

Barak's part was superfluous and problematic," he added.

Another leadership candidate, Ephraim Sneh, also said "it was all an unnecessary showdown. Had the sides accepted my mediation proposals, all this could have been easily averted."

### ANALYSIS

## Barak still needs Peres

By SARAH HONIG

Outgoing Labor leader Shimon Peres yesterday rhetorically challenged the party's convention delegates to tell him if he is a loser. Their vote a few hours later confirmed their answer.

The delegates mercilessly ended the two-decade Peres era and unofficially crowned MK Ehud Barak as the party's new chief.

The drama was by no means a radical departure from time-honored Labor tradition. It has all happened before and it has happened to leaders with an even greater claim to greatness than Peres.

Such is the natural cycle in Labor. When the center of power is perceived to shift, even the mightiest party boss or national icon cannot escape rejection.

David Ben-Gurion is a case in point. His rule was close to absolute, but when it began to shake, he was left with few allies.

Peres should have kept this in mind, especially as he had a hand in many of those past events since his days on the rise not only to national leadership but to the control of the party machine for two decades.

Even when the late Yitzhak Rabin narrowly wrested the leadership from him, Peres continued to control the party machinery. All that did him no good when their basic political survival instinct told the delegates that Peres is no longer a viable bet.

The stinging loss at Barak's hand was something he could have avoided had he followed the example of his Likud counterpart, Yitzhak Shamir, who stepped down gracefully, without any prodding.

But when Peres announced last fall that he would not run again, it rang like a forced concession and he soon displayed his intention to hold on to the party leadership.

Continued on Page 9

## Jordan envoy resigns after 4 days

By DAVID RUDGE

Foreign Minister David Levy was optimistic yesterday that he would persuade Ambassador to Jordan Oded Eran to rescind his decision to resign - after just four days on the job.

Eran, who submitted his resignation to the Foreign Ministry on Sunday, decided to step down because he was not informed about last Thursday's visit to Akaba by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks with King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan.

Eran left the embassy in Jordan and was reported to be attending an economics conference in Brussels. He was not available for comment.

The Foreign Ministry, however, confirmed that he had resigned, although Director-General Eitan Bentsur expressed the hope that Eran would reconsider.

The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement saying Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had been informed in advance of the prime minister's secret visit to try and resolve outstanding water issues which



Oded Eran

Netanyahu said, created a "mini-crisis" in Israeli-Jordan relations.

The statement implied that Levy, having been told of the visit, was responsible for informing Foreign Ministry staff, in particular the ambassador in Jordan.

Levy met with Netanyahu yesterday afternoon to discuss the issue, which was cited by senior

Foreign Ministry staff as an example of lack of coordination between the ministry and the Prime Minister's Office.

Foreign Ministry officials have complained that they have been kept out of the circle of decision makers on important issues, including the peace process.

Former ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir said in an interview with The Jerusalem Post last week that since the formation of the Netanyahu government, there have been too many cases of misunderstanding, insufficient coordination, use of improvised and irregular channels, and leaks about secret meetings, all of which have eroded the effectiveness of the political dialogue.

Shamir said yesterday it was primarily because of these irregularities and learning of meetings from the media after they had taken place that he had not sought an extension of his term.

"Unfortunately, such irregularities [and] lack of coordination have embarrassed to the world of the Israeli government's words and undermined the credibility of the government, as well as a deterioration of the image of the Israeli political system," Shamir said. "This is an instrumental problem which inevitably has a detrimental effect in relations [between Israel and Jordan] on substantive issues."

There was no lack of coordination, however, between Levy and Netanyahu, with the former firmly supporting the prime minister's stance that the secret meeting had been necessary to resolve the dispute over the water issue.

Levy said after the meeting that Netanyahu informed him of the Akaba meeting only an hour before it took place and that he was asked to keep it secret.

There are occasions, in the midst of a crisis, which require the intervention of the prime minister, he said.

He stressed it was an extraordinary incident, but one which could and did happen in diplomatic and political life. He maintained that there was no reason for Eran to resign, because the Foreign Ministry adheres to the principle that diplomatic relations be handled through embassies.

## Bar-On petitions in High Court today

By BATSEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice will convene today to consider nine petitions relating to the Bar-On Affair.

Five justices will sit on the panel, which will be headed by Deputy President Shlomo Gleser. President Aharon Barak disqualified himself since he gave evidence to the police team which investigated the affair.

Should the court decide to overrule Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decisions not to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, it could throw the political system into chaos.

Rubinstein decided, in his report published just before Pessah, that neither would be indicted on charges of breach of trust or fraud, although their behavior was found wanting in terms of good government.

At the same time, the report said that Shas MK Aryeh Deri should be indicted for trying to appoint an attorney-general who would help him in his ongoing criminal trial. Police and the prosecution are still examining evidence with regard to Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

In its responses presented Sunday to the court, the State Attorney's Office said it will defend its position that neither Netanyahu nor Hanegbi should be prosecuted, since there is a lack of prima facie evidence that they were involved in a crime.

Petitions were submitted to the court by Meretz, Labor MK Ophir Pines, the Movement for Quality Government, and several private citizens.

Among the central issues raised in the petitions are requests that the court order indictments against Netanyahu and Hanegbi and for the latter to be removed from his position. Another petition calls for the suspension of Lieberman until a decision is made about him. There are also petitions calling for the publication of the report by the

police investigative team and for the establishment of a public commission of inquiry into the entire affair, as well as a petition requesting that no charges be brought against Deri.

Hundreds of Shas supporters demonstrated outside the Supreme Court building yesterday evening. There were more demonstrators than the police had allowed, and the protest was held at a different hour. When demonstrators blocked the entrance to the building, they were dispersed by the police, without violence.

## Kasparov found Deep Blue all too human

By URBEL HEILMAN

Forced to choose between a move offering strategic gain or one that would inflict psychological damage upon its opponent, IBM's Deep Blue computer opted for the latter on its way to victory in Sunday's match against world champion Garry Kasparov, according to Shai Bushinsky, a Tel Aviv computer programmer who created a chess program similar to Deep Blue.

Kasparov will be arriving in

Israel next week in connection with his involvement in the Chess Academy he helped found in Ramat-Aviv.

Kasparov, thrown off by the machine's uncharacteristically human behavior, lost the match that G.J. Tan, head of the Deep Blue team, told the Associated Press symbolized "the beginning of the Information Age."

Kasparov's friend Michael Khoshnood told AP this was the first time Kasparov ever lost a chess match.

After losing the second game, a puzzled Kasparov called Bushinsky, whose program "Junior" tied with Deep Blue for third place in a recent computer competition, to ask him if Junior would have made the same choice in anticipation of the move's men-

tal effect on its mortal opponent. Bushinsky said Kasparov was surprised by the "human-like calculation" the computer made in determining its move.

"It is unclear whether Deep Blue's move was strategically optimal, but it had a powerful psychological effect on Kasparov that served to increase the pressure on him because he suddenly saw the computer as something he could not think the computer would do," Bushinsky said.

He explained that while in the other games of the match, Deep Blue took a defensive stance and made moves that were predictable by most "high-level" chess machines, it took offensive in the second game.

This, Bushinsky said, is a psychological effect of computers, which are

programmed to react rather than initiate.

"On offense, man is better than machine," Bushinsky said, but Kasparov fell victim to the computer's psychological warfare.

Because Kasparov could not familiarize himself with the computer's playing style before the game, a practice he utilizes against human opponents, Deep Blue had an advantage over him and Bushinsky.

"Garry Kasparov was not mentally prepared for the game," he suggested, meaning that Kasparov's defeat had more to do with his mental state than his chess skills.

After his loss, a visibly frustrated Kasparov told reporters, the game obviously has a psychological effect. I am a human being."



مكتبة الاصل



## NEWS

in brief

## Yekutieli threatens Bar-Ilan closure petition

In response to a Channel 1 report yesterday that Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy plans to partially close Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, Meretz city councilman Omer Yekutieli said he will petition the High Court against the closure. He said that Levy and the hardliners are turning Jerusalem into Iran and that they are creating a capital that does not represent the state. *Itim*

## 3 officers acquitted in electrocution deaths

A court-martial yesterday acquitted a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, and a captain of negligence in the electrocution of soldiers Eran Hudeida and Avikam Hoffman in July 1994 in south Lebanon. The two soldiers were riding in an armored personnel carrier when Hoffman was hit by a hanging high-voltage cable and Hudeida tried to help him. The judge suggested the accident was caused by poor visibility that could not have been prevented by taking all standing security precautions. The three, however, were convicted of negligence in the line of duty. *Itim*

## Lintzer files brief in libel suit

Attorney Shmuel Lintzer yesterday filed in Jerusalem District Court his defense brief in the libel suit against him by *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrodi and attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak. Lintzer had given an interview suggesting that the two had conspired to have Avi-Yitzhak named attorney-general. Lintzer said the suit should be dismissed because it was filed in bad faith, as part of an effort to "close mouths" and keep the facts from coming out. *Itim*

## Baby killed in house fire

An 18-month-old boy was killed when an apartment in Ashkelon caught fire yesterday evening. His two brothers were injured, one seriously and one moderately, from smoke inhalation and were taken to Barzilai Hospital. The boys' mother had left them alone at home, and the fire apparently started as a result of the older two playing with matches in their bedroom. They managed to flee to the living room, leaving their baby brother behind. *Itim*

Keren Or Institute  
American and Israeli Board of Directors  
We grieve the passing of  
**CHARLES CHAIM HACHOEN BENDHEIM** ז"ל  
member of the Board of Directors,  
who contributed greatly from his strength and resources to  
establish a warm home for the multi-handicapped blind children  
in Israel, and we share in the loss and sorrow of his family.  
May Hashem comfort you among the Mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Batya and Elie Borowski, and the Board of Directors of the  
Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem  
deeply mourn the loss of our dear friend,  
Board member and supporter  
**CHARLES H. BENDHEIM** ז"ל  
We extend our deepest condolences to the entire family

MaTan  
shares in the grief of Elie Bendheim and her children  
in mourning the loss of  
חבר ציילם חיים הכהן בנדheim  
**CHARLES H. BENDHEIM**  
Ne'eman Yerushalayim  
Leader and Devoted Friend  
Lili Weil, Malka Bina and the MaTan family  
הבוקר נזכר אתכם בתוך שוק אגלי ציון וירושלים

The Institute for Advanced Strategic  
and Political Studies (IASPS)  
Jerusalem and Washington  
mourns the passing of  
**CHARLES BENDHEIM**  
A true friend

On the 14th year after the death of our son  
**Lt. ZVI (Zvika) MACHLIS**  
who fell in battle while serving with Sayeret Golani, we will  
hold a graveside memorial service on Thursday,  
May 15, 1997 (8 Iyar 5757) at 5:30 p.m., in the military  
section of Savoyon Cemetery  
Family and friends

We sadly announce the death of our beloved  
mother, grandmother and great-grandmother  
**GENIA K. LUDWIN (née Glazer)**  
(Vilna, South Africa, Canada)  
who passed away in Canada on May 7, 1997.  
Deeply mourned by:  
Her children, Hala and Joe Shapiro, Ra'anana  
Samuel and Vivienne Ludwin, Canada  
Tamar and Martin Fransman, Scotland  
David and Laura Ludwin, Canada  
Her grandchildren, Dorit and Yachin Yarchi  
Jonathan and Tzippi Shapiro  
Derek, Raymond Ludwin  
Judith, Karen, Jonathan Fransman  
Adrian, Daniel, Ilana Ludwin  
Her great-grandchildren, Daniela, Alona Yarchi  
Tomer Shapiro

Eitan:  
Probe  
Raviv

By LIAT COLLINS

Likud faction and coalition chairman Michael Eitan is demanding that State Attorney Edna Arbel order an investigation into the activities of Avishai Raviv, who was employed by the General Security Service and apparently acted as an agent provocateur in the period leading up to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

In a press conference at the Knesset yesterday, Eitan presented the sworn statement of an unnamed person which had been forwarded to the state attorney some six weeks ago. The statement describes the way Raviv incited attacks on Arabs in Hebron and whipped up anti-Rabin sentiment at rallies and demonstrations around the country.

According to Eitan, the police investigation into Raviv ended because of orders from above. Eitan stopped short of placing the blame on anybody within the security, police or political establishment, however.

"It is shocking that Raviv is free to wander among us despite the reasons to suspect he was responsible for more threats, acts of violence and incitement of a political nature than any other person in the history of the state. There is also good reason to suspect he systematically incited for the murder of Rabin," Eitan said.

Eitan said he has been investigating the subject for several months but called the press conference because of the screening on Channel 2 last night of *The Road to Rabin Square*, a film on the incident which led up to the murder. Eitan said the documentary did not mention Raviv and his role at all.

Continued on Page 4

Ya'alon says  
terror threat  
persists

By LIAT COLLINS

There is still no real cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli security services and the threat of terror attacks still exists, OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said Ya'alon did not deny reports that the US is trying to reach a formula under which the Palestinians will cooperate with Israel and act to prevent terror in return for Israel refraining from unilateral moves on matters such as settlements.

According to an official briefing, Ya'alon said that both the Syrians and the Palestinians are waiting to see what happens in Israel's domestic politics. Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat is improving his standing in the international community, particularly in Europe, he noted.

Ya'alon said there "are no signs on the ground of cooperation" between the General Security Service and the Palestinian Preventive Security Service.

"There is no intense activity against the terror infrastructure. There is an atmosphere in the field of [possible] terror attacks," he said. Ya'alon said the Islamic rejectionist groups feel the time is ripe for attacks to be resumed, but he added that there are no concrete warnings of specific attacks.

Continued on Page 4

## SOCIAL &amp; PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. A foreign correspondent will speak on current events.

## ARRIVALS

For the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University:  
From Argentina: Bory and Leon Aaso, Eda Aaso, Pablo Baron, Simone Malhot, Enriqueta & Sigrida Braun, From Australia: Rose & Hennie Poligod, Maxine & Julian Topogian, Ida & Adam Friedman, Mira & Arnold Waisel.  
From Austria: Edith & Georg Katz, Shoshana & David Rahmoud, Rudolphine Steinhilber.  
From Brazil: Nina & Elberta Cleveland, Denise & Lynn Zacks, From Canada: Prof. Lawrence Bessner, Yehuda Rapoport, From France: Louisa & Noél Barag, Françoise Glasberg for the awarding of the Henri Gladberg Prize, Hélène & Wolf Mannot, From Germany: Barakat Kozak & Joseph Buchmann, From Holland: Lory & Alfred Spiller, From Mexico: Dr. Jaime Constantino for the inauguration of the Joan and James Constantino Institute for Molecular Genetics, From Norway: Jenny Dente, Herman Kahan, From South Africa: Pauline & Norma Borsak, Gerardo & Iren Greenstein, Penny & Walter Robinson, Phyllis Secher, Sylvia Smoler-Winlow & Shimon Winlow, From Sweden: Eve Cederbaum, Laila & Torsten Pries, From Switzerland: From Switzerland: Belle Gersel, Samuel Wyler, From the United Kingdom: Rene Bahmen, William Margulies, Jeanette Pomeroy, Barbara Stratzel, Alma & Leslie Wolfson, Lyn & Richard Wolfson, From the United States: Doris & Al Abramson, Ruth & Elliot Elie, Edward Bell, Ding Eisinger, Sara & Michael Geiger, Bala & Avram Goldfarb, Perry Haber, Joan Leasing, Senta & Philip Robinson, Dr. Evelyn Royal, Tomer Rudich, Julia & Yehochai Schneider, Miriam & Abraham Shapiro, Sheila & Neil Siderow, Dr. Carol R. Singer, Gaby Solondz, Saly & Yenny Baum, Or, Baruch Telerman, Dr. Mordechai Weissberg, Miriam & Dr. Ben Williamson, From Venezuela: Mordechai Curiel, Miriam & Isaac Merinfeld, Elizabeth Mundak, Eva & Stanley Stayer.



US mediator Dennis Ross (left) shakes hands with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv during their meeting yesterday. (Gideon Markovitz)

## PA okays US-mediated meeting

By JON IMMANUEL

The Palestinians are to participate today in three-way talks mediated by US envoy Dennis Ross to get the peace process back on track, but will insist on a freeze of building on the Har Homa project before resuming direct talks with Israel.

During a break in a marathon meeting in Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's office last night in Gaza, his advisor Nabil Abu Rudeineh said, "We agreed to Ross's proposed meeting, to talk about the crisis [in relations with Israel]."

It will be the first time the two sides meet to talk about political issues since March, though there

have been some security meetings with US participation.

"It is just a meeting, not a resumption of talks. The Americans have some ideas, but less than an initiative. We are looking for a freeze to building on Jabal Abu Ghneim [Har Homa]," Abu Rudeineh said.

"Without that and without a change in the 2 percent redeployment from area C there can be no talks," he said.

Arafat met late last night in his office with members of his negotiating team, who were divided over whether to meet with Israeli negotiators today in a further US mediated attempt to restart the peace talks.

Planning Minister Nabil

Shaath will probably head the delegation because overall chief negotiator Mahmoud Abbas resigned when the crisis began two months ago, and his deputy Yasser Abed-Rabbo is abroad. The meeting will probably be at the home of US Ambassador Martin Indyk.

The PA suspended bilateral political talks after construction began on the Har Homa project in March. Since then, Arafat has demanded an end to settlement building as a condition for the talks' resumption.

Israel put forward its own conditions - that the PA resume security coordination with Israel, following bombing attacks and charges that Arafat gave them a

"green light."

The possibility that Israel would try and tempt the Palestinians back to talks with economic concessions was dismissed by official Palestinian sources.

However, in talks yesterday with donor countries in A-Ram, just north of Jerusalem, Shaath admitted that the economy was improving in Gaza because the relaxation of the closure was increasing the number of workers being permitted to go to jobs inside Israel.

At Karmi checkpoint in Gaza, the director-general of the crossing, Col. Jamal Abu Yusef, said

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## Palestinian, Israeli police officials meet

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Judea and Samaria Police chief Cmdr. Yossi Sidbon met with his Palestinian counterpart Cmdr. Tarik Zaid and other high ranking Palestinian Police officers at the Hebron police station yesterday.

The aim of the meeting, said Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan, was to improve cooperation and strengthen the relationship between the two sides.

Sidbon also stressed the importance of maintaining personal contact between the two sides, which he said will ensure a continued successful working relationship.

Meanwhile, 100 residents from the Hebron Jewish community demonstrated outside Beit Hadassah to protest the road work in Shuhada Street that commenced yesterday morning.

For several months, residents have been forced to use a road in the area under Palestinian control due to work being carried out in the section leading from Gross Square to Tel Rumeida, virtually cutting off the enclave.

Hebron community spokesman Noam Arnon said that the residents are fed up with the work and concerned for their safety. "Since the road has been dug up outside Beit Hadassah, we are forced to

park our cars elsewhere," he said adding that the residents' main concern is future plans that will open up the road to massive traffic on both sides, which will cause a security problem.

According to Sivan, police dispersed the Jewish residents after they demonstrated for about an hour. During the demonstration two minors were arrested after they sprayed tear gas into the faces of two young Arabs.

Leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria,

and Gaza will meet with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai this afternoon, seeking to improve relations and determine his policy on the demolition of illegal houses in settlements. The council has been seeking to meet with Mordechai since three houses on a hilltop near Yitzhar were demolished last week.

Meanwhile, Arutz 7 reported that the government announced it had submitted 31 requests for extradition to the Palestinian Authority six weeks ago. The

requests include 11 new ones, as well as the re-submission of 20 old ones.

The new requests include the extradition of the murderers of Itan and Efraim Tzur of Beit El, those of 75-year-old Nafali Sahar of Rehovot, and of the terrorists who attempted to murder soldier Tzvi Fikler in December 1993.

In addition, the extradition of Nafez Mahmoud Sabih, suspected of being involved in three terrorist attacks in which 45 people were killed, is being sought. The attacks include the suicide bombings on bus No. 18 in Jerusalem on February 25 and March 2, 1996, and the suicide bombing in Ashkelon on February 25, 1996.

According to the radio reports, a spokesman in the Prime Minister's Office said that the lack of response by the PA to the requests is a blatant violation of the Oslo Accords.

Arieh O'Sullivan adds: In a related development, unrest erupted in two West Bank villages. In Tzurif, an IDF soldier was lightly injured and hospitalized after being attacked by stone-throwers. In Beit Fajar, soldiers clashed with Palestinians, firing rubber bullets and tear gas. No one was injured, and the IDF declared the village a closed military area for a number of hours.

Palestinian Police chief calls  
for a new peace strategy

Palestinian Police commander Gen. Nasser Yusef yesterday called for a new peace strategy based on improving the economy of Israel and the Palestinians through cooperation.

Speaking at a closed meeting of Bar-Ilan University's political science department, Yusef said the strategy must be based on cooperation between Palestinian and Israelis in several fields and on several levels, according to participants. This, he said, should include the religious leaders of the two communities.

Yusef, responding to questions from the university lecturers, acknowledged Palestinian human rights violations and said he hopes that the Palestinian Authority will improve its record.

The meeting was organized by Wadie Abu Nassar, of Haifa, who teaches at the Open University. Abu Nassar has excellent ties with many PA officials. *Steve Rodan*

Gilman slams PA  
death penalty for  
selling land to JewsBy HILLEL KUTTLER  
and news agencies

WASHINGTON - House international relations committee chairman Benjamin Gilman yesterday called "racist" the Palestinian Authority's death penalty edict for Arabs selling land to Jews, and urged PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to reject it.

Gilman said he is "dismayed" that Arafat has not yet condemned the policy announced last week by PA Justice Minister Fathi Abu Medein. Gilman also said he hoped the PA Legislative Council votes against the policy before it becomes official.

Farid Bashiri, a Jerusalem resident suspected of selling Arab land to Jews, was found dead in Ramallah last Friday.

"In any event, I hope that Chairman Arafat recognizes the dangers inherent in it and uses his influence to prevent this noxious idea from going any further," Gilman said in a statement. "To assert that an entire group of people is 'off limits' in transactions with another for any reason is exactly the kind of racist and religious bigotry that led to the Nazi extermination

camp, and cannot be tolerated. If this proposal becomes effective, the next step could be to dictate that Arabs may not sell produce or other goods to Jews."

Asked about Gilman's statement, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters he would not criticize Arafat because he does not know whether or not Arafat has spoken out against the decision.

Burns also said he was unsure whether US envoy Dennis Ross has raised the matter with Arafat during Ross' current visit to the region.

"We would obviously be highly disturbed if it turned out that any officials had anything to do with the murder ... in Ramallah. But I want to be very quick to say that it has not been proven, it has not been indicated, and the police are investigating this particular crime," Burns said.

Meanwhile, an Israeli official has accused Arafat's personal guard of killing Bashiri. "There is no doubt at all that Force 17 [Arafat's personal bodyguard] killed him," a senior Israeli official said on Sunday.

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Dept. of Computer Sciences  
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at the Maus Multipurpose Computer Laboratory  
The Wladimir Schreiber Institute of Mathematics Building  
Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv  
Entrance for pedestrians through Maziza Gate (2)  
The public is invited



REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

# Convention of ill will

By SARAH HONIG

Yesterday's session of the Labor Party's convention was described by many delegates as the "convention of ill will." Most everybody admitted to being uncomfortable and a few even spoke of revulsion.

The speeches of the chief protagonists - outgoing leader Shimon Peres and his likely successor Ehud Barak - were received by the other side without understanding or compassion. It was reminiscent of previous Labor feuds, and one could hear comparisons to what happened to David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir and, most of all, Peres's great battles with the late Yitzhak Rabin.

Peres told the delegates that if the convention chose not to consider his appointment as party president now, "I will not be a candidate. I have no desire to continue being the victim of speculation and slander any longer. I will not be here in September."

Peres hotly denied charges that what

he really wants is to become Labor's co-leader. "I am not trying to set up dual power centers and I am not after power and authority... but I also don't want a role defined as honorary, because that would be a dishonor."

His motive, Peres asserted, is to save the peace. "As long as I am breathing and I can stand on my feet, I will try to save the peace process which is being murdered before our very eyes."

He grew most emotional when defending his record and seeking to challenge the view that he is a loser who never led his party to victory at the polls. He described at length how in 1977 he took over a disintegrating party, "which no one wanted. I had no competition then. I was unanimously elected to the Labor leadership, but then I was called the loser. Did I alienate the National Religious Party? Did I establish the Democratic Movement for Change?"

The audience grew restless as Peres spoke, and could not always discern what point he was trying to make. His speech was somewhat disjointed and

highly emotional. Because he was so emotional and concentrated so heavily on past feuds with the likes of MKs Avraham Shohat and Uzi Baram, his words were not well received.

Peres sidetracked too much, was far too emotional and did not adhere to the issues at hand, Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg said.

The audience was not always kind to Peres. When he asked rhetorically: "Am I a loser?" many voices could be heard calling out: "Yes."

Barak, in contrast, delivered a speech in which he explained why the convention should not make Peres president now. "Let's not compete over how much we love Peres. We all love him, but our task tonight is to decide between a return to the old days of intrigue and factionalism in the party or to head to a new era of unity, hard work, credibility, openness, and victory."

After the June 3 leadership primary, Barak promised to call Peres and ask him to come to his party's aid.



Young Labor Party activists display propaganda for each of the four candidates, Ehud Barak, Ephraim Sneh, Yossi Beilin, and Shlomo Ben-Ami, who are vying for the party leadership. (Israel Hadari)

BACKGROUND

## NRP's new MK tips balance to right

By HERB KEINON

The National Religious Party, already positioned well on the government's right side, will likely look and sound even more right wing with the addition of Nissim Slomiansky to its Knesset faction.

Slomiansky, the head of the Elkana Regional Council, was No. 10 on the NRP's Knesset list, which placed nine MKs in the House in the last elections. He will be replacing Avraham Stern, 62, a longtime NRP activist from Hachibbutz Hadati movement, who died on Monday and was buried yesterday at Kibbutz Ein Hanatziv.

Stern, who for years advocated a degree of territorial compromise with the Palestinians, was considered a representative of the NRP's "moderate" stream, while Slomiansky, one of the founders of Gush Emunim and a leading member of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, is affiliated with the party's right wing.

Stern was the only NRP MK, besides the party's two ministers, who absented himself from the Knesset plenum in January during the vote on the Hebron accord, rather than vote against the accords.

Earlier this year, Stern was quoted in *Ha'aretz* as saying that he did not rule out the possibility of a Palestinian state. "I don't rule it out altogether, if there is a chance for a peace arrangement and that is the element which holds it up. I don't want a Palestinian state either, but it doesn't seem to me to be a sacred issue. In my opinion, it's possible to create such a state on condition it doesn't have a massive military, the ability to produce arms, and the right to exchange ambassadors with other countries."

Stern was roundly castigated in the party's various frameworks for these remarks. In stark contrast to Stern's positions, Slomiansky is counted among those on the right even in the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Slomiansky was opposed to a 1995 initiative by some settlement leaders to talk with Palestinian Authority officials. Slomiansky, the council's "operations officer," was a driving force in numerous council demonstrations and anti-Oslo

protests over the last four years.

In recent months, because of disillusionment with Prime Minister Netanyahu's settlement policy, he has led a move to try to find a right-wing candidate to run against Netanyahu in the next elections.

The addition of Slomiansky means that five of the party's nine MKs live in settlements. In addition to Slomiansky, who lives in Elkana, Yigal Bibi and Hanan Porat live in Gush Etzion, Zvi Hendel in Gush Katif, and Shaul Yahalom in Kedumim.

The addition of Slomiansky will undoubtedly strengthen the image of the NRP as the party of the settlers. This is somewhat ironic, since the party's success in the last elections - it went from six to nine seats - had much to do with its appealing both to a wider sector of the religious public and to elements of the secular public.

The party's "NRP to your Right" slogan of the 1992 campaign was jettisoned in the 1996 campaign, with the party placing less of emphasis on the territories and more on issues of Jewish identity, values and education. Up until Stern's death, the balance of power between moderates and territorial hawks in the party's Knesset faction was roughly 5 to 4, in favor of the hawks.

Among those considered moderates were Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, deputy religious affairs minister Yigal Bibi, Shmuryahu Ben-Tsur, and Stern.

The hawks are generally considered to be Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, Avner Shalek, Porat, Yahalom and Hendel. Slomiansky will tip this to this balance further to the right.

But Yitzhak Rath, an adviser to Levy and former NRP spokesman, said this breakdown is very "superficial," and that he cannot remember a time when the party's decisions have been decided by one or two votes.

Shalek said that Slomiansky's addition to the list will not alter party policy. "Nothing will change," he said. "We are a united front, which stands as one."

While the party's policies may not change, its tone may become more uncompromising - the result of one of its voices advocating territorial compromise having been replaced by another urging complete territorial integrity.

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The Future of the Past

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Hall 003, Israel Pollak Wing for Public Policy  
Naftali Building, Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv

Entrance through Josef Kruss Gate (5) and Ramnecan Gate (4)

The public is invited



## NEWS

in brief

## Man gets 24 years for raping stepdaughters

A Bat Yam man was sentenced to 24 years' imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for raping and sodomizing the two daughters from his wife's first marriage over a seven-year period, ending in 1996.

The 58-year-old man was convicted of molesting one of the girls from age 12 to 15, then raping her about four times a month until she was 19 and already a soldier. The other girl was raped from age nine to 11. The man, whose wife left him as a result of the crimes, denied the charges, saying he is impotent. *Itim*

## Police to take over bus security

Police are preparing to take over bus security, after the cabinet decided on Friday to cancel the special Egged and Dan security squads, which were operated by the Transport Ministry.

The Israel Police said the Transport Ministry squads did good work, but their capability was limited, as they were not authorized to detain suspects. As a result, the cabinet decided to transfer responsibility for bus security to the police. A budget has been arranged for the police squad, whose members will undergo special training. *Itim*

## 3 Torah scrolls destroyed in Ra'anana blaze

Three Torah scrolls and dozens of prayer books were destroyed in a fire at the Kfar Nahman hostel for the retarded in Ra'anana on Saturday night.

According to police, the fire apparently was started by candles carelessly lit in the synagogue by one of the residents in memory of his brother.

Interior Minister Eliahu Yishai ordered Interior Ministry officials to find an alternate site for the synagogue with the help of funds that the ministry would put at the hostel's disposal. He also called on the hostel's administrators to review regulations regarding fire prevention with the residents. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Alzheimer's cases expected to soar

The number of Israelis suffering from Alzheimer's disease is expected to double - to 100,000 - during the next three years. This prediction was made yesterday by Prof. Avraham Fisher of the Ness Ziona Biological Institute, during a press conference previewing the Fourth International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease to begin in Eilat on May 18.

Five to 7 percent of people aged 65 are likely to contract this fatal, progressive form of dementia, as will 25% of those over 80. By comparison, there are some 500,000 to one million Americans and some 10,000 Israelis with Parkinson's disease. *Judy Siegel*

## Groups demand educational system review

Educational and social groups are convening today in Jaffa to call for a review of the nation's educational system. Initiated by a group called the Oriental Democratic Rainbow and the "New Education" non-profit organization, and with the participation of university students, youth group members and other bodies, the participants will call on President Ezer Weizman to establish a commission to take a closer look at the nation's education system.

Oriental Democratic Rainbow spokesman Moshe Karif said that among the issues they would raise in their demands for the review are the need to reopen school registration zones; the disappointing results in matriculation exams, particularly among the poor; the negative images projected in the schools of Arabs and Oriental Jews; and the failure to properly absorb Ethiopian Jews in the nation's schools. *Artyeh Dean Cohen*

## TAU raises more than \$20 million in donations

Tel Aviv University has raised new cash donations of more than \$20 million in the past six months, an all-time high, the university announced this week. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Detention law problems expected

By RAINE MARCUS

Judges and police are expecting disruptions and problems as a result of the new law on detention of suspects, which came into effect on Monday. Police must now bring suspects before a judge after 24 hours, instead of 48.

Courts are now to be open until 10 p.m. to accommodate requests for remands, but so far, a senior Justice Ministry source said, there has been no authorization for additional budgets for personnel. In Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, one more judge has been appointed; he will be on duty

from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Judges are concerned that police will not make arrests because 24 hours will not be sufficient to investigate and to gather evidence to warrant a further remand, according to ministry sources.

"Many criminals may be running free because police do not have the time to investigate, and they will be released on bail by a senior officer at the police station because there is no other choice," a senior legal source said.

Police and judges also slammed the fact that the new law allows the suspect to consult with his lawyer at the beginning of the

24-hour period. Previously, suspects were not allowed to consult with lawyers immediately.

Meanwhile, the Israel Police has begun to make changes in its organizational structure, under a long-term plan initiated by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

Rather than each police district being divided into sub-districts, which in turn are in charge of police stations, plans are under way to eradicate sub-districts and build more and larger police stations that will answer directly to each district headquarters, Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky said last week.

At present Tel Aviv is divided into three sub-districts, which are in charge of police stations in their respective areas.

"The restructuring of the city's police, to include eradicating the sub-districts and building seven stations instead, will mean that each station commander will be directly responsible to the city's chief," Aharonishky said. "The demography of the city has also changed - North Tel Aviv has expanded and thus citizens' needs have changed."

"We aim to set up community policing points all around the city and its suburbs, to enable the public to have a local policeman to turn to for various problems," he added.



Videoconferencing at Hadassah

Dr. Koby Assaf, director of the emergency room at Hadassah-University Hospital, Eilat Kerem, diagnoses a patient at a Kupat Holim Clalit clinic in Beit Shemesh via a videoconference call over special Bezeq lines. The experimental service uses a sophisticated computer system developed by the SMI company. Assaf, who is in charge of the new service, said patients in outlying areas lacking a hospital can benefit, especially when local specialists are not available. X-rays, electrocardiograms and other data can be transmitted in real time, while the doctor speaks to the patient. The cost-efficient systems could operate in Magen David Adom's mobile intensive care units and in the IDF, he said. *(Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Avi Hayman)*

## Jerusalem church dedicates sculptures by Israeli artist

By HAIM SHAPIRO

One of Jerusalem's major pilgrimage sites was rededicated yesterday with a series of sculptures by an artist who is also executing a giant statue of Jesus Presley.

The site, St. Peter in Gallicantu, marks the spot where the apostle Peter, according to tradition, renounced Jesus before the cock crowed three times. The sculptures, by artist Richard Shilo, include a monumental gate with a depiction of the last supper and a group sculpture of the moment of denial, as well as a

another statue of Jesus in shackles in the crypt of the church, marking the place where Jesus was incarcerated.

Shilo, who was born in Poland 50 years ago and came to Israel in 1957, said that he is an agnostic, but that he related to universal religious ideas.

"I related to universal ideas, not necessarily Christian ideas. I can grasp a beautiful idea in any religion," he said.

Shilo, who designed the statue given out at the Israeli "Oscar" awards, has also undertaken to erect a 3.5 meter high statue of Presley at the

gas station at Neveh Dan.

Father Robert Fortin, rector of the church, said that the church wanted to use a local artist. The church had actually learned of Shilo through a group of Palestinians from Beit Jalla, who work in a foundry he uses in Abu Ghosh.

Fortin said he is pleased that the newly refurbished church represents the combined efforts of Palestinian Christians and a Jew. The major cost of the renovations was given by George and Marie Doty of Rye, New York, who also provided funds for the new dome in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

## Striking Delek workers clash with security guards

Histadrut to refinery workers: Withhold fuel from Paz

Striking Delek employees clashed with security guards early yesterday morning at the company's Haifa plant.

At around 2 a.m., security guards chained the plant's gates closed and blocked the entranceway, locking inside some 60 workers, who set up a protest camp at the plant a week ago. The workers and guards began to exchange blows, and one worker was lightly injured.

Delek legal adviser Ya'acov Finegut said the company had sent the guards to prevent property from being stolen from the plant, and not to interfere with the protesters.

At a solidarity protest with the striking workers yesterday, the Histadrut called on refinery workers not to supply Paz with fuel due to claims that it has been supplying fuel to Delek stations.

Today the Histadrut is signaling to the Paz company, and other

fuel companies, that it's not worth it for them to interfere in a dispute that doesn't involve them and to violate a strike.

Haifa Histadrut chairman Baruch Zaltz said.

The Histadrut will not allow Delek to destroy the collective labor agreement and move all of its employees to personal contracts, Yigal Cohen, head of the Histadrut Haifa branch's trade union department, said at the protest. *(Itim)*

Ya'alon said the attempt by the Palestinians to blame the abortive attacks near Kfar Darom on Israel is for domestic reasons, to show that the Islamic Jihad could be penetrated by Israel.

In answer to MK Ze'ev Binyamin Begin, Ya'alon said the smuggling of arms and ammunition by Palestinian holders of VIP status continues.

On Syria, Ya'alon said President Hafez Assad has not given up the military option if he cannot reach his goals by other means, but he

## YA'ALON

Continued from Page 2

would not resort to this until the possibility of a US-brokered diplomatic process has been completely exhausted or breaks down. Ya'alon said Assad realizes he needs the US to help resume the diplomatic process.

Syria continues to invest mainly in strategic weapons, such as ground-to-ground missiles, with the help of civil Russian experts. It

apparently aims at creating a deterrent in this field because it cannot compete with the strategic balance created by Israel's ground and air forces, he said.

Ya'alon also said Assad is well aware of the different consequences in the use of conventional and non-conventional weapons.

Syria continues, with partial success, to whittle away at Israel's diplomatic achievements with other Arab states including Jordan, Egypt, the Gulf states and in North Africa, according to Ya'alon.

## RAVIV

Continued from Page 2

The High Court yesterday rejected several petitions against showing the film, which Michael Karpin wrote and directed. The groups which appealed against the broadcast said it was not objective and noted in particular that the director, David Mosevics, financed the newspaper ads after the elections headed: "Have the murderers inherited?"

Eitan said Raviv had activated and mobilized other people to act with the deliberate intention of blackening the name of settlers, the

national camp and Hebron residents. He led different organizations, including Sword of David, Dov and Eyal. Eyal staged a swearing-in ceremony by Baruch Goldstein's grave and claimed credit for the murder of an Arab in Halhul. The Arab was later proven to have been killed by another Arab in a robbery.

Raviv, in the presence of Yigal Amir, apparently argued that the religious law of *din rodef* should be applied to Rabin. He also said it should be used against Shulamit Aloni, Yossi Sarid, Shimon Peres, Yossi Beilin and others.

Eitan raised the questions of where Raviv is today, where he works, and who pays him. He said the investigation should examine whether somebody gave Raviv immunity to call for Rabin's murder and act in different sites, including schools, and use public funds for this.

## Seven bitten by snakes over past two days

By JUDY SIEGEL and Itim

At least seven people were bitten by snakes Monday and yesterday.

According to Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed, which treated five of the cases, the recent heat wave has awakened snakes early from their winter hibernation.

In the event of snakebite, lay the victim on the ground and ensure that he is completely motionless. Bind the affected limb to the body and call Magen David Adom (at the 101 emergency number). Don't cut or burn the wound or suck out the venom; don't put ice on the wound or attach a tourniquet; don't try to catch the snake.

MDA advises taking a first-aid kit on hikes and trips, wearing high-top shoes, placing a barrier at the entrance to tents, and being careful not to stick your hand into hidden places, including under rocks.

The five snakebite victims treated at Sieff Hospital were a soldier from a base on the Golan Heights, a 16-year-old from a moshav in the Galilee, a young woman from a kibbutz near Kiryat Shmona, and two men who were working in the fields of Kibbutz Merom Hagolan.

MDA reported that an 18-month-old baby was bitten at Moshav Saniam, and a 45-year-old woman was bitten while sleeping at Kibbutz Beit Hashita.

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## Sunday June 1 A DAY LIKE NO OTHER

Israel is not associated with heavy industry, and yet, this tour will visit the Haifa Bay, including the Oil Refineries, the Kili Aluminum Works, plus a boat tour of the bay when we'll view the shipyards, workshops and navy base. We bet you've never seen this part of Israel.

NIS 200 (including lunch)

Tour guides: Dr. Yeosh Zohar

## Monday June 9 ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY

In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaliers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land - the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.

NIS 185

Tour guide: Eran Sabar

## Thursday June 19 LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

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Entrance through Ranniceanu Gate (4)

The public is invited

هذا من الأصل





Riot policemen look on yesterday as Ertugrul Ozkok, editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper 'Hurriyet,' makes his way back from the Istanbul governor's office after Turkish journalists marched there to protest recent attacks on the media. (Reuters)

## Turkish journalists protest threats

ISTANBUL (Reuters) — Almost 200 Turkish editors, columnists, newsreaders and reporters yesterday delivered a petition to Istanbul's governor urging action against what they said were politically motivated attacks on the media.

"We presented our petition and demanded that necessary preventive measures be taken," Turkish Journalists' Association chairman Nail Gureli told reporters.

"With the conscious finger-pointing by spokesmen of political power, the media is becoming the target of violent acts, of armed attacks," he said.

The journalists staged the protest one day after a young man with apparent Islamist

leanings attacked the headquarters of the secularist Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet*, which has been a harsh critic of the Islamist-conservative government. A janitor was injured in the episode.

Ten days before that attack, gunmen attacked the offices of Flash TV in an apparent reaction to a program on organized crime in which a gangster accused top secular political figures of corruption.

Parliament has recently voted not to investigate further corruption charges levelled against Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, who leads the conservative junior partner in the governing coalition.

"The government is inciting its supporters

against the press and this creates a very very dangerous situation," Haluk Sahin, Kanal D news coordinator said.

Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has often accused the media — which has speculated that the powerful military might topple him in what would be Turkey's fourth coup since 1960 — of whipping up a conspiracy of lies to get rid of him and to protect their secular values.

Last week, in what the media interpreted as a rebuff by Erbakan, the Islamist-held justice ministry ordered inquiries into eight journalists and two union officials for articles or speeches allegedly intended to provoke a military coup.

## Palestinians plotted to kill pope — reports

BEIRUT (AP) — Palestinian terrorists planned to assassinate Pope John Paul II with rockets during his visit to Lebanon last weekend, two Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday.

The leading daily *An-Nahar* and the rightist *Ad-Diyar* attributed the report to unidentified "official sources," but said it had come from the Italian branch of Interpol, the international police network. The reports gave no details on how the alleged plot was foiled.

Lebanese security officials confirmed they received an alert, but stressed the pope was never in danger because of the extensive security surrounding his visit. The officials spoke under their standard rules of anonymity.

The pope arrived Saturday in Beirut and for 32 hours kept a hectic schedule of meetings and ceremonies. On Sunday, he celebrated an open-air mass in downtown Beirut attended by a crowd estimated at 500,000 people.

The authorities deployed some 20,000 police, soldiers and other security personnel, along with tanks and helicopters, to guard the pontiff.

The attackers had acquired 23 Chinese-made rockets from Chinese gangsters and hoped to use shoulder-fired, anti-aircraft rockets against the pope's plane or helicopters he used in Lebanon, the newspapers said.

They said the Italians learned of the purported plot from the Canadian Interpol branch, which identified the would-be attackers as members of a previously unheard of group calling itself "Jaish Allah," or God's army.

The group was said to be made up of Palestinian Islamic extremists operating abroad but with an "active branch" in Lebanon. Subsequent information about the plot said it could involve Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

## Another quake hits Iran

By STEVEN SWINDALLS

QAEN, Iran, (Reuters) — A second earthquake struck Iran's devastated eastern region and more international aid made its way yesterday to survivors of the killer quake that displaced 50,000 people last weekend.

The new jolt late Monday struck with a force of 4.8 on the Richter scale as rescue teams searched among the rubble of 200 villages left in ruins by Saturday's 7.1 magnitude quake. There was no word of casualties in the latest quake.

Iran yesterday revised downwards casualty figures in Saturday's quake. The Interior Ministry said the latest figures stood at 1,560 dead and 2,810 injured.

There was no explanation for the change in figures from earlier official reports of 2,400 dead and 6,000 injured.

The ministry said 10,500 tents, 25,000 blankets and large quantities of food and clothing had been given to survivors — most of whom were still wandering in the rubble of their ruined homes and burying

their dead.

The Iranian Red Crescent said rescue workers would comb the quake-stricken areas one more time for the living and the dead before winding up their operations.

Michael Schulenburg, UN resident coordinator in Tehran, said his office had so far received \$600,000 in cash donations from different UN agencies and \$35,000 from Denmark which would be used to purchase relief goods in Iran.

Schulenburg said a French aircraft carrying 39 tons of emergency equipment and medicine has arrived at Mashhad airport while one from Italy loaded with 36 tons of medicine and other aid was due in later yesterday.

He said the UN has set up an office at Mashhad airport to receive the aid, some of which was also being received by the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

UN officials in Tehran said rescue and relief work was going well but three strong quakes that rocked Iran in the past four

months had put a huge strain on its emergency supplies and sparked an urgent need for international help.

"There is a shortage of tents and more than one family is having to share one tent," Schulenburg said. "There is also urgent need for water purification systems." He said between 150,000 and 200,000 Iranians were estimated to have been made homeless by the three quakes that hit Iran since February.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies appealed Monday for \$8.2 million to help Iran.

Several countries made pledges or said they had sent aid, including the United States and European Union states involved in a diplomatic row with Tehran.

Iran has put initial estimates of the extent of damage in the region at 300 billion rials (NIS 340 million), but Zargar said a total damage evaluation would be released next week.

Iran said it would pay 500,000 rials (NIS 520) to every person who lost a relative.

## Mandela pressures Zaire leaders

News agencies

CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela was cautiously optimistic yesterday that a meeting between Zaire's warring factions would yield a peace agreement.

Mandela told journalists at his Cape Town office he had spoken to Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila by telephone yesterday morning. "I hope tomorrow we will make some progress," said Mandela, who has also been in contact with the presidents of France, Congo and Togo.

Meanwhile, the UN children's agency said armed men in rebel uniforms in eastern Zaire attacked two of its international staff members, beat them and bayoneted them. One needed hospital treatment.

Spokeswoman Marie Heuze said UNICEF condemned "this act of barbarism" in the *de facto* rebel capital Goma, which showed that conditions were "not adequate" for relief work in the area. UN sources said the attackers spoke Kinyarwanda, the language of neighboring Rwanda, which is backing the Tutsi-dominated rebels.

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said Monday that today's scheduled meeting between Kabila and Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko on a South African naval supply ship off the coast of Pointe-Noire, Congo, could be the last chance to find a negotiated solution to Zaire's seven-month conflict.

Mbeki wants the two sides to agree on the composition of a transitional authority and on how long Mobutu will remain in Zaire before proceeding with today's meeting on board the *Outeris*.

Mbeki's spokesman, Ricky Naidoo, said the deputy president was hopeful of getting the agreement ironed out late last night.

Mbeki had planned to fly early yesterday to Zaire to iron out last-minute differences between Mobutu and Kabila. However, he testified yesterday morning to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is investigating apartheid-era political crimes.

Naidoo said Mbeki then began talking with Mobutu and Kabila by telephone. He was scheduled to leave Cape Town for Pointe-Noire late yesterday, Naidoo said.

Kabila's supporters have taken control of three quarters of the country and claim to be just 50 kilometers outside the capital Kinshasa.

## Miami struck by twister

MIAMI (AP) — From the roof of the downtown police station, Officer Leo Carilo watched the tornado lurch closer and closer.

"I saw palm trees and trees with root systems and everything a couple of hundred feet up," Carilo said. "It was something like in the movie *Twister*, like in the *Wizard of Oz*, everything flying like that." The tornado swept past the station and Miami's high-rise condominiums Monday afternoon, smashing windows and damaging roofs and cars in a three-kilometer path as people scrambled for cover. No one was killed and only five injured, including a woman who suffered a heart attack.

Several television stations captured spectacular footage of the funnel cloud as it blew through downtown with 160 kph winds, then past condo towers and across causeways on Biscayne Bay.

In Little Havana, the roof of a three-story building collapsed. The tornado also touched down to the east on the MacArthur Causeway, which leads to South Beach, and brought traffic to a halt.

"We thought it was going to hit us," said Joseph McCrea, a toll collector at the Venetian Causeway, which leads to Miami Beach.

McCrea watched the storm rip trees out of the ground and set off small explosions as it tore down power lines. An estimated 20,000 people lost power, but it was restored by evening. At least 35 had to seek overnight shelter.

"I've lived here 32 years and this is the first time I've ever seen anything like this," said police spokesman Delrish Moss, who watched the twister blow by the police station. "I was fascinated. I found myself standing there in total awe of the magnificent power that this pack."

An American Airlines jet flying into Miami International Airport hit severe turbulence because of the tornado, injuring two passengers and five flight attendants. The A300 from Boston had 156 passengers and nine crew members aboard. It landed safely.

"It bounced so hard I thought we hit another plane or something," said passenger Claude Remi.

Anna Varela, who lives on an island between Miami and Miami Beach, saw the twister on TV. Then she looked out a window and saw the twister bearing down on her house, which escaped virtually unscathed.

"They showed it on TV and then it came through like a whirlpool," she said.

## Moslem-secular clash in south Russia leaves at least one dead

MOSCOW (AP) — At least one man was killed when Moslem villagers in southern Russia clashed with members of a fundamentalist Islamic sect, accusing them of intolerance, a news agency reported yesterday.

More than 600 people were demanding that residents from the fundamentalist Wahhabi sect leave the village of Chabunmahi in the southern Dagestan region, accusing them of making trouble because of intolerance, the Interfax news agency said.

The Wahabis locked themselves in a mosque Monday and when a crowd gathered outside there were shots from both sides.

One man was killed, but the report gave no further details.

Russian television also reported from Dagestan that two people were killed and two were wounded in the shooting.

A stand-off continued overnight with the Wahabis staying inside the mosque and both sides calling for reinforcements from other towns in the area. Interfax said 15 Wahabis were taken hostage by other villagers yesterday.

Police surrounded the village to prevent the conflict from spreading. Akhmed Tagayev, Dagestan's deputy prime minister and Wahabi fundamentalist, said the sect would be turned out of the village.

The authorities of Dagestan and Russia have warned Wahabis about the threat of prosecution if Islamic fundamentalism spreads in the region.

The spread of Islamic fundamentalism and of various Christian groups' breakaway sects, Dagestan's deputy prime minister said, was a major threat to the Caspian Sea region and people from at least 30 ethnic groups.

# شهر الثقافة والكتاب العربي

## חודש התרבות והספר הערבי 1997

### ARAB CULTURAL MONTH 1997

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT  
invites the public

**NATIONAL OPENING** - May 18, 1997, Beit Hagefen, Haifa  
Under the patronage of Mr. Zevulun Hammer, Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, in the presence of Mr. Amram Mitzna, Mayor of Haifa, Mr. Yasser Abed Rabbo, Minister of Culture and Information in the Palestinian Authority, and with the participation of Mr. Ibrahim Nimmer Hussein, Chairman of the Council of Heads of Arab Local Councils, Mr. Ramez Jeraisi, Mayor of Nazareth, Ambassadors, Members of the Knesset, heads of local councils and artists and performers. Program: concert, theatrical performance, poetry by Tawfik Zayad, under the direction of Riyad Masarweh.

**NATIONAL ARABIC BOOK FAIR** - May 18 - June 6, 1997  
Hundreds of thousands of books, from Israel and all Arab countries, in the Beit Hagefen Sports Field. Meetings and seminars, events and performances in the fair area - organized by "Dar al Hoda". Every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**ARAB HERITAGE EXHIBITION** - May 18 to 31, 1997  
Thousands of items from the Arab home, kitchen utensils, tools, decorations, clothing, pottery, etc. The Beit Hagefen Museum on Center, every day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Assembled by Amwar Asaf.

**DEBKA AND ARAB FOLKLORE CARNIVAL** - Thursday, May 22, 1997  
Debka troupes from all over the country, Harat and Zagal singers. "Live" Arabic wedding in the streets of Wadi Nisnas. Opens at Beit Hagefen at 8 p.m. Performance by the foremost Debka troupes at Beit Hagefen at 8 p.m.

**NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF ARAB ARTISTS** - Opening May 25, 1997  
Beit Arab artists will present a "visual dialogue" on the Beit Hagefen Gallery. Three Jewish guest artists will pay tribute to Arab culture. Curator: Abed Abadi. May 25 to June 18, 1997.

**MARATHON OF ARABIC CINEMA** May 26 - 29, 1997  
Screening of Arab films from Israel and Arab countries, movie effects, creators' platforms, film workshops and more - at Beit Hagefen.

**LITERARY EVENING IN MEMORY OF THE AUTHOR EMIL HABISI** - at Beit Hagefen, June 7, 1997

**POETRY EVENING IN MEMORY OF THE POET MICHEL HADAD** - at Tamra, June 9, 1997

**CAN ZAMAN TENT** near Beit Hagefen  
Live and all evenings, storytellers and guest programs with actors and artists in an authentic atmosphere. Food and drinks, folk dances, tea and nargila in the tent.

**HUNDREDS OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS IN 35 ARAB TOWNS AND VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.**

**INAUGURATION OF SCULPTURE GARDEN AT KAWKAB** at 5 p.m. on June 17, 1997  
The Sculpture Garden for Peace and Co-existence in the village of Kawkab Abu El Hija. 25 sculptures by well-known Israeli and Palestinian artists.

**PERFORMANCES OF THE POETRY OF "TAWFIK ZAYAD" - DANCE AND POETRY THEATER**  
Perform at Beit Hagefen, May 18, 1997 (at the opening) and additional performance on May 19. Also in Nazareth on May 17, 13 and 14 and at Sarason on June 19.

Additional details and invitations at the offices of Beit Hagefen.  
Tel. 04-552-5252, fax 04-552-9165

Beit Hagefen Arab Jewish Center

Omatut La'Am

Committee of Local Arab Councils

Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Cultural Administration - Department of Arabic Culture

Haifa Municipality



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## Seize the moment

As Israel celebrated Independence Day, US mediator Dennis Ross continued his latest round of shuttle diplomacy at receptions marking the event. The peace process waits for no one, but now it has become a waiting game. In the abstract, both sides may want to dislodge the process from its current rut, but neither side has much of an incentive to break the deadlock.

Israel is willing to make certain gestures, but rightly is refusing to make major unilateral concessions to bring the Palestinians back to the table.

This is especially true because Israel is generally abiding by its requirements under Oslo, while the Palestinians are not only shirking their responsibilities, but making additional demands on Israel.

Any concessions made for nothing more than a renewal of existing Palestinian commitments to fight terror would make a mockery of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's concept of "reciprocity," which in any case is on the rocks.

With the toughest decisions lying ahead, the surprise is that Netanyahu's major proposal would be to accelerate the process. It is less surprising that Israel might be in no hurry to move forward, given that it will only get tougher from here.

The Palestinians also lack an incentive to move forward, because a "crisis" atmosphere works in their favor. While Israel is generally at a disadvantage when it comes to avoiding blame for a particular crisis, the Netanyahu government is particularly vulnerable. From day one the current government has been playing catch-up in the court of world opinion, and the Palestinians have no interest in allowing Israel to build any credibility.

The Palestinians realize that the deeper the crisis, the more pressure there will be on both sides, but most of the pressure will be on Israel. In this situation, Yasser Arafat has little incentive to back down from his demands. He knows that, at the end of the day, it is Israel which will be labeled the intransigent.

It is times like this that both sides turn to the United States. The US has always been the arbiter in the peace process, but the vigor of its arbitration has varied widely. In general, its role tends to increase at the best of times and the worst of times—when the final deal needs to be clinched, or, if there is a war. Camp David, where the peace between Israel and Egypt was

hammered out, is the prime example of one role, while the cease-fire agreements in 1967 and 1973 are examples of the other.

The Madrid Conference was the exception to the rule. It was a massive diplomatic effort not precipitated by a crisis but by a historic moment: the victory of the US-led alliance that saved one Arab nation from occupation by another. With the PLO on the ropes for backing Iraq, and Syria, the US, and Israel on the same side, anything seemed possible.

Since then, however, the Oslo Agreements, which took the US by surprise, have taken over as the centerpiece of the peace process. In the era of Oslo, the US has remained critical to the process, but has reverted to the mode of intervening most strongly at the extremes. You bring the document, we will provide the White House lawn. Or alternately, if things blow up completely, as they did in September's violent outbreak, Washington is the place to sort things out.

In between, Dennis Ross and his team labor day in and day out to keep the process moving. The problem is that the current crisis is falling through the cracks and the US is not filling them. President Clinton is busy with his own problems and not in the mood for taking big risks at a moment when the process seems particularly prickly. The still new secretary of state, Madeline Albright, also has delayed her direct involvement, understandably hesitant to become swallowed up by a dispute that has frustrated most of her predecessors. Her meeting, scheduled for Friday, with Foreign Minister David Levy does not necessarily portend a more active approach.

The US rightly and repeatedly states that it cannot substitute for the will of the parties to resolve their own differences. This is more than a slogan to keep the parties from running to the US at every turn—it is true. It was Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin, acting on a historic opportunity after the Yom Kippur War, who were critical to forging the first Arab-Israeli peace treaty.

The lesson of Camp David, of Madrid, and even of Oslo is that it takes a combination of determined leaders, the right historic moment, and tireless mediation to create breakthroughs in the peace process. The danger now is that the moment may be there, but the leaders are not fully ready. The US should begin to address this problem.

## Diplomatic damage

After the furor surrounding the shocking appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had learned his lesson and that, from now on, all appointments would be made in consultation with the relevant ministers. Unfortunately, as the example of Israel's short-lived ambassador to Jordan, Oded Eran, has shown, making the correct appointment does not, by itself, ensure that all will run smoothly.

In a hard-hitting letter of resignation, Eran, a career Foreign Ministry official and not a political appointment, complained that his role as ambassador had been seriously undermined by the failure to keep him fully informed of the latest developments in Israeli-Jordanian ties. Netanyahu's secret meeting with King Hussein in Akaba last week, about which Eran learned from the media, drove the new ambassador to demand out. An ambassador's job, he said, is not to simply wave the flag. Foreign Minister David Levy is now putting his diplomatic skills to use in an attempt to persuade Eran to withdraw his resignation.

Eran's predecessor, Shimon Shamir, while expressing regret at Eran's decision in a number of interviews yesterday, did not hide his lack of surprise. During his tenure in Amman, Shamir said, the Prime Minister's Office had often bypassed him, as if relations between the two countries still had to be shrouded in secrecy.

What is no secret is that Israel's diplomatic service is in tatters. Almost a year into this government's tenure, there is still no ambassador at the United Nations, despite the urgent need for such an appointment. Ambassador to the United States Eliahu Ben-Elissar has, in a relatively short space of time, succeeded in alienating both the State Department and much of the American Jewish community. The political cronies appointed to the post of ambassadors to the United Kingdom and South Africa also fail to bode well for Israel's good name.

For a prime minister who gained entry to domestic politics on the strength of his performance as an ambassador, Netanyahu's failure to see the damage to Israel's world standing through these numerous diplomatic disasters is puzzling indeed.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PERVERTING THE COURSE OF JUSTICE

Sir, —The political left can, with impunity, accuse the right of all sorts of nonexistent wrongdoings but when the right (be it in the person of the prime minister or otherwise) fights back, it is guilty of incitement (Larry Derfner's "Déjà vu," April 24).

When the attorney-general decided not to indict the prime minister, the opposition leader nevertheless announced that he would face indictment by the public. When the attorney-general concluded that there was not enough evidence to warrant indictment, the opposition countered that there was not enough evidence to prove his innocence either. Since when, in a democracy, must an innocent man, after being falsely accused, prove his innocence?

It is a well-documented fact that in last year's election campaign, the Israeli media did everything in their power to promote the cause of the left, to the disadvantage of the nationalist camp. After the Likud victory, they left no stone unturned to unearth some unlawful dealings allegedly committed by Mr. Netanyahu in the US and to throw doubt on the loyalty of some of his team. When it all failed, they grabbed the Bar-On for Hebron affair as a welcome new opportunity to get rid of the hated right-wing government which was determined to put the interests of the country and Jewish values at the top of the agenda.

When the prime minister ordered a police inquiry in order to clear his name, a number of leaks

were conveniently arranged in the course of the investigation, leading to "trial by media."

When this latest ploy also failed, tactics changed. Petitions poured into the High Court, to overturn the attorney-general's decision in order to try and topple the prime minister and overturn the democratic decision of the voters.

If, according to Larry Derfner, Mr. Netanyahu's name is synonymous with incitement, then the opposition is synonymous with conspiring to pervert the course of justice for no other reason than an all-consuming greed for power and the inability to accept that the public had decided against it.

R. WILLERS

Wembley Park, Middx.

### ODD COMPLAINT

Sir, —It seems odd if not downright absurd that Israel's prime minister appears on TV and complains about the government's own channel, TV Channel 1, is not a private commercial business. So to whom was the prime minister

complaining?  
As Allan E. Shapiro writes on April 25: "Mr. Netanyahu has come into office without any real feel that he firmly holds the power that goes with it. The enemy, loosely defined, is still running things,

and they are out to get him." Instead of calling on an American expert in PR, our prime minister should have called for advice on Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

M. PAGGY

Petah Tikva.



## What's proper for Peres

YORAM KANIUK

Never in my lifetime, and I am 67, have I seen a leader being treated by those around him like a sulking child who has to be mollified.

Yesterday's Labor Party convention focused not on issues vital to the party, but on whether Ehud Barak should act compassionately toward Shimon Peres—the man who has brought the worst disaster in its history down upon his party. It was pure soap opera.

All the actors, those close to the action, and those like media people who were further removed, experienced—though they did not express—obvious unease at being exposed to the raw ego of a man who feels "L'etat, c'est moi."

Whether Peres ends up party "president" or not isn't the point. It would be a post made-to-measure out of mercy, just for him. It would be like a bone tossed from pity to a starving dog.

What a personal tragedy for a man who has been a major player on the political scene for 50 years, almost longer than anyone else, save King Hussein. What a comedown, to end an illustrious career virtually begging for charity.

After losing the elections for the fifth time (it wasn't Netanyahu who won, it was Peres who lost) this desperate man still sought a way to crawl into a national unity government. Then came the Bar-On Affair, killing that hope.

After that, the only thing he could do was try and stay afloat any way he was able. And if it meant bringing everybody in his party down, so much the better.

Yesterday's convention was the arena of Peres's last battle for political survival against a younger, more Rabin-like opponent, one who was determined to

win. Ehud Barak is a strong man; he can lead a strong, Rabin-style opposition, if he is allowed to do so.

Peres spent his political life surrounded by charismatic or trusted figures like David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin—and now Ehud Barak—who faults were forgiven them, who were loved in spite of their mistakes. He never understood why

**He has a role to play, and it isn't begging for charity**

he himself, longing for the kind of love these others evoked, could excite no more than appreciation at most.

He now seems bent—perhaps out of pique or jealousy—on putting a spoke in Barak's wheel.

SO maybe it is the Likud that ought to be offering Peres the party "presidency" for being such a help to it, both in the last elections, and now, in its efforts to achieve an opposition that has no claws.

Whenever he can, Peres cites the fact that Ben-Gurion was his mentor; but whatever he absorbed from that great man, it wasn't his chief virtues. It wasn't Ben-Gurion's awareness of when the time had come to pack up and retreat into the desert; it was, rather, a clear memory of the way B-G zealously destroyed the Labor Party in the Lavon Affair in the 1960s.

No, it wasn't from Ben-Gurion that Peres learned the paramount

cy of clinging to power for power's sake.

There's something pathetic about a leader who won't accept the consequences of his own actions and personality, but always accuses others of betrayal and evasion of responsibility.

When Yitzhak Shamir lost the election, he handed back the keys of the party, and went home. In 1974, Golda Meir won, but she took responsibility for what had happened in the Yom Kippur War and resigned, and didn't seek to become a "president."

Peres has a long list of achievements. He is recognized as the man who built the foundations of Israel's security establishment. He takes credit for his important part in the Oslo agreement. And as far as world acclaim goes, he has a Nobel Peace Prize to warm him on chilly nights.

So why degrade himself now? Why throw himself on the mercy of those who lack his stature and experience?

Now in his mid-70s, Peres doesn't need a title. He is already an elder statesman.

He should sit at home, a one-man House of Lords, under the halo of his considerable achievements. He should hold court to those coming to seek his counsel, and allow Labor to create an opposition worthy of the name to the worst government we have ever had.

And at day's end, when they've all gone home, he can sit back and read the books he says he enjoys so much.

The writer's latest book, *Another Love Story*, was published recently. His *Land of Two Promises*, written jointly with Arab novelist Emil Habib, is currently being translated into several languages.

## Well of pure water, waiting

ANDREW M. ROSEMARINE

largely based on the common law of England, a highly developed, and technologically advanced system. But even England has adopted principles of Jewish law.

WHEN I was an undergraduate at Oxford, my criminal law tutor

**Jewish law can exist harmoniously with secular law. A rabbinical judge should sit on the Supreme Court**

pointed out that though, under English law, it was impossible for a man to be found guilty for raping his wife, this was not the case under Israeli law.

A decision of the Supreme Court in Jerusalem, citing Maimonides among other authorities, had held that a man could indeed be found guilty of raping his wife.

Since then, English law has changed; it follows Israeli law in this matter.

When I was working at the Bar in London, one of the issues to come before the High Court concerned Sunday trading.

It seemed that the Treaty of Rome (the constituent treaty of the European Economic Community, which has a section on the freedom of movement of goods) could be interpreted as outlawing legislation prohibiting Sunday trading, such as then existed in the UK.

The court was asked to determine whether such an interpretation could prevail over the fourth commandment (to keep the Sabbath as a day of rest).

If Jewish legal principles have

relevance in the English courts, why should they be looked down upon, in all places, the Jewish state?

Jewish law, with three-and-a-half thousand years of development to its credit, covers a multitude of legal areas. It can be a very useful adjunct to the learning at the disposal of the Supreme Court.

If religious court judges or dayanim lack experience in certain areas of law, it should be noted that the same is true of secular judges.

A good example of this is monopolies and restrictive practices law, essential for the proper working of the market economy. The most senior judges worldwide usually do not have a sufficient understanding of economics to cope with this vital field of economic life. Should they be barred from the bench as a result?

Dayanim can learn much on the job. The experience with Rabbi Simha Assaf, who sat on the Supreme Court in its early years and often cited secular law, is good evidence of this.

But *Ha'aretz* omitted to mention the most important aspect of the whole issue—that Jewish law is a source of Israeli law, by order of the Knesset (during Menachem Begin's premiership).

How, then, is one to draw effectively on Jewish law without the participation of those fully qualified in it? Aharon Barak's suggestion deserves total support, even if his preferred candidate has declined.

It is important that the haredi community be aware that the president of the Supreme Court is trying to introduce a higher degree of halachic input into the decisions of his court.

Certainly the well of Jewish law—compassionate, tolerant, at its best progressive—can be used as a source of justice in the Jewish state.

The writer is a lawyer qualified in English and Israeli law.

## Justice asleep

JAY BUSHINSKY

If the same degree of effort and publicity afforded the current quest for Jewish assets lost during the Holocaust had been devoted to searching for the Nazis guilty of crimes against humanity, the postwar world would have averted one of its greatest moral transgressions.

But it was not to be. The victorious World War II Allies failed to live up to their leaders' warning that the perpetrators of systematic genocide would be severely punished.

The Jews who survived the death camps and slave labor details were too weak and politically helpless to pursue and capture their tormentors.

And the State of Israel, which gained its independence three years after Nazi Germany's capitulation, was too distracted by its own war for survival and by its need to integrate hundreds of thousands of Jewish newcomers to allocate its then-meager resources to tracking down the mass murderers still at large.

Power politics caused a premature halt to the Allies' initial "denazification" program and their concomitant conduct of war crimes trials like the International and American Tribunals at Nuremberg.

It became evident to the American and British military commanders based in Hitler's former Third Reich that Germany's industrial might had to be reactivated and its population rehabilitated as rapidly as possible to buttress the West's confrontation with the newly-victorious USSR.

In short, the Cold War took precedence over the principle that wanton bloodshed cannot go unpunished.

And Zionism's basic objectives, especially the strengthening

**Have we decided to allow Nazi war criminals who are still alive to enjoy a tranquil old age?**

ing of the Jewish people's control over as much of pre-1948 Palestine as possible, took priority over the pursuit of fiends like Dr. Josef Mengele, Auschwitz "angel of death," and Alois Brunner, sadistic commandant of the Drancy and Sered transit camps in France and Slovakia.

The US was particularly amoral on this score. After letting hundreds of mass murderers, including Brunner, slip out of the American Army's detention camps, it recruited dozens of wartime SS intelligence officers as agents of the newly-reconstituted Central Intelligence Agency. Ironically, these men were regarded as experts in Eastern Europe, and were assumed to have useful contacts in the various Soviet Bloc states.

When the Mossad captured Adolf Eichmann, who masterminded the systematic slaughter of European Jewry, there was no official Israeli framework capable of preparing the Jewish people's case against him.

A special police department known as "06" was created especially for the Eichmann trial. Although it remained in existence afterwards as the Nazi Crimes Investigation unit, this was a shoestring operation with a minuscule budget and minimal personnel.

STILL, it was surprising to me that in all the oratory, ceremony and documentary material prompted by the annual observance of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, nothing was said about the need to bring the perpetrators still alive to justice.

No mention was made of the US Justice Department's Office of Special Operations, and its exposure of former death camp guards and legal proceedings against them. Nor was anything said about Canada's, Great Britain's and Australia's belated crackdown against the SS men within their borders.

There were no references to France's agonized and long-overdue decision to prosecute the collaborationist Vichy Regime's accessories to Nazi genocide, people like Maurice Papon and the late Paul Touvier.

This isn't a matter of vengeance forewarned by a heartbroken, traumatized remnant of the world's pre-1939 Jewish population. It is the failure to fulfill an obligation owed to those whose rage and accusations cannot be heard from their mass graves.

The writer is a veteran foreign correspondent.



## GRAPEVINE

## Weizman seeks independence

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

At the close of his brief welcoming address to guests attending the annual Independence Day reception for diplomats at Beit Hanassi, President Ezer Weizman announced his own impending independence. The walker which he has used since his accident and subsequent surgery a couple of months back "will be disappearing within a few weeks," he disclosed. Earlier in the day, he temporarily dispensed with the walker when he approached the podium to speak at a ceremony honoring 120



Weizman: (Almost) standing on his own feet again (Isaac Harari)

outstanding soldiers, but decided afterwards that it is still too soon to discard it entirely.

In an attempt to get the peace process back on track, Weizman is not only talking to Yasser Arafat, but to US peace envoy Dennis Ross. One of the guests at the Independence Day reception for the diplomatic community, Ross and US Ambassador Martin Indyk (whose wife Jill was dressed in a horizontally striped blue and white suit in the colors of the Israeli flag) left other diplomats traversing the lawns of Beit Hanassi as they followed Weizman inside the building for a private confab.

Earlier Ross had a tete a tete with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, and then with Foreign Minister David Levy. When Weizman disappeared with Ross and Indyk in tow, Levy remained outside in a quiet corner of the garden engrossed in conversation with Bassiouny and Foreign Ministry director-general Eitan Ben-Zur.

THE BUSY social whirl in the diplomatic community puts a lot of pressure on female diplomats and wives of male diplomats. There's a limit to how often they can wear the same outfit, and few of them have the budget to keep on buying something new. Former second-hand clothing store proprietress Sonia Lew, the wife of Daniel Lew, Honorary Consul for Papua New Guinea, spied some of her former clients at Beit Hanassi, but was too discreet to say who they were.

LIKE HIS cousin, television newsmen and stage actor Emanuel Halperin, Likud MK Benny Begin has an innate sense of theater. Thus last Friday, in the midst of his anti-Oslo accords address to the Labor Party's Jerusalem branch convention, Begin, who was citing Labor leadership hopeful Yossi Beilin, stopped in mid-sentence as Beilin

entered the hall, declaring: "It's always like that with you people. I mention someone, and he comes in. I intend to mention Ehud [Barak] before the end, so he still has 20 minutes to show up." True to form, Barak came late, just after Begin had commented on his platform, but still in time to hear the tail end of Begin's remarks. Begin interrupted himself again to announce, "see, I said Ehud Barak, and he arrived."

Though cheered by his own campaign team, Barak drew far less applause than Beilin from the Jerusalem electorate, which also enthusiastically applauded both Begin and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, who was a minister in the previous Likud-led government. Milo, who does not share Begin's views on the peace process, said that he would nonetheless vote for him if he ran for prime minister because of Begin's honesty and integrity.

There was hardly any heckling when Begin spoke, and after he concluded, many Laborites stood up to shake his hand. When Jerusalem branch secretary Haim Cohen brought to silence the few people who disrupted the proceedings, Begin made a conciliatory gesture with his hand, saying, "Haim, it's okay. I feel much more at ease here than in the Knesset."

THE FACT that Russian chess champion Garry Kasparov was defeated in a technical knockout by IBM's Deep Blue computer



Porat: Training future chess champions (Elihu Harari)

only poses a greater challenge for other potential champions. This may explain why National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat spent so much time on Independence Day coaching Kibbutz Kfar Etzion youngsters in the intricacies of the game. Others were also able to pick up pointers since the exercise was performed on a giant chessboard set out under the trees on the kibbutz lawns.

A MISHAP in the cockpit of the private plane taking him to Cannes almost prevented Sylvester Stallone from attending the celebrated film festival. Tragedy was narrowly averted when the pilot made an emergency landing.

THE TIMING was almost perfect. Terry Hatcher, who plays Lois Lane in the Superman series *Lois and Clark*, and who landed the role as the latest James Bond girlfriend, has announced that she is three months pregnant. Fortunately she's finished shooting most of her scenes in the new James Bond movie, so a bulging tummy is unlikely to get in the way of her career.

## US moms pine for '50s-style family

By SUSAN BAER

Mothers today are having such a hard time balancing the demands of family and work that they are looking back wistfully to the traditional *Leave It To Beaver*-type family structure and doubting their own success in raising their children, according to a survey in the US.

In a poll of American women by the Pew Research Center for The People & The Press, 41 percent said they thought that a family in which the father worked and the mother stayed at home was best for raising children.

Only 17% said it was beneficial for children and society to have mothers work outside the home, and 37% said it made no difference.

Even among women who work full time, only 41% said they were confident that their situation was good for their children. And perhaps surprisingly, college graduates were the most negative about the increase of moms in the workplace.

"This is a strong indictment on the part of mothers these days, and women in general, about the way kids are being raised," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center. "Mothers don't even give themselves overwhelmingly good marks."

When asked to compare themselves with their own mothers, most women — 56% — said they thought they were less capable. Only 11% thought they were doing a better job. The vast majority — 81% — said they thought the job of mothering today was more difficult than it was 20 or 30 years ago.

For all their doubts about working moms — and about how able they are as mothers — most women said that in an ideal world, they would prefer to work rather than be stay-at-home mothers.

But among those with children under 18, 44% said they would choose to work part-time rather than full-time. Only one in four said that, if given a choice, they would prefer to stay at home.



Near Ronald Bitt

The survey, released last Thursday on the eve of the Mother's Day weekend in the US, was based on interviews with 1,101 adult women, both married and single, mothers and non-mothers.

The margin of error was plus or minus three percentage points.

Although women may be looking back fondly to the 1950s version of family life, where dad generally went to work and mom generally stayed at home, they are acknowledging that "the changes in the structure of American family are here to stay," Kohut says.

Mothers who work full-time said time pressures were the most difficult problems they faced. When they were interviewed by the Pew Research Center, they cited such difficulties as "dropping him off at his baby-sitter's so I could be at work by 6 a.m." and "not being there for every-

thing like school functions."

Moms who work part-time or stay at home said that disciplining their children was the most difficult aspect of being a mother. Kohut said the survey reflected "a tremendous amount of conservatism" in women's views about the ideal family structure for raising children.

For instance, only 17% of women said they thought that divorced couples who split custody of their children can do a good job of parenting. Similarly, 65% were opposed to single women having children, and 56% thought it was detrimental to society to have gays and lesbians raising children.

The good news in the poll is that women in general say they are satisfied with their lives, with mothers whose children are grown the most satisfied and single moms the least satisfied.

(The Baltimore Sun)

## PARENTING

## Newsletter helps new parents

By RUTH MASON

Having a baby — especially your first — is a wonderful but sometimes overwhelming experience. There's so much to know and we have to learn much of it on our own. And the proliferation of research into infant and child development in the last few decades has yielded a vast — almost overwhelming — amount of information.

For those parents who want a quick and easy update on their child's development, a group of American experts has put together *Growing Child*, a month-by-month newsletter about what your child is doing, thinking, experiencing and looking like.

The first newsletter, called *Birch*, tells you what to expect from your newborn: Much to many new parents' surprise, a newborn's skin will be red and scaly and its nose may look flat. And the baby's head accounts for one quarter of its body size!

The same issue contains short articles on the importance of the old-fashioned rocking chair, your baby's intelligence, breast feeding, bottle feeding and a checklist for calling your doctor.

Each issue also contains a box listing what your baby likes to do at this age (e.g. stare at movement and light, be held and rocked) and what you should give your baby (head support when lifting or holding

her, the sound of your voice talking and singing, your arms.)

The monthly newsletter talks about newborn reflexes, a newborn's vision and the importance of talking to your baby. The authors cite studies, but write in a very readable, popular style. Each newsletter is six pages and contains illustrations and photos. The newsletters continue monthly until the age of six.

The newsletters are a quick, handy reference for developmental milestones, ideas of what to do with and for your baby and child at different ages and what physical and emotional changes to expect at different ages and stages.

I would take the emphasis on early stimulation with a grain of salt. Most normal babies will develop just fine with a lot of love, physical and social contact and the freedom to move and explore. Not everyone believes, as these authors do, that parents need to actively stimulate their babies with vision-grabbing black-and-white mobiles or special educational toys. Despite this emphasis, the newsletter is well-written and worthwhile.

Subscriptions in the US cost \$15 and include a monthly supplement called *Growing Parent*. For information on overseas subscriptions, write to *Growing Child*, 22 North Second Street, Box 620, Lafayette, Indiana 47902-0620, USA.

## Not Page One

## The ReCon reckoning

By Sam Orbaum

There is an answer to the perennial question "Who is a Jew?"

It's a Jewish answer: "Who can say?"

The Orthodox believe they have the answer to both: "We" and "Us." No apologies.

Now, the Reform and Conservative movements have come up with a response of their own: "Us."

Demure no longer, the ReCon component of our exhaustingly disputatious tribe is madder'n hell about the government's support for Orthodox exclusivity regarding conversions, the straw that finally broke this Jewish camel's back. No more blank checks to the State of Israel, they say: what we should provide funding for haredi yeshivot while our Israeli brethren can't scrounge *grushim* for our own institutions? Brilliantly logical that they should funnel their own money to their own interests.

The ReCons' laden devotees in America are tired of being diminished and discredited by a cadre of stern rabbis on the other side of the world. The shock for them is that, with governmental collusion supporting the issue, the ReCons are left to stare at their delusions: they are not, as

lected for Israel this year."

"Nu?"

"Five hundred big ones."

"Million?"

"Uh, no."

"Billion?"

"No. Five hundred dollars."

"Must be the recession."

"No, the recession. Diaspora Jews are mad, mad, mad, and they're not going to take it any-

more. They say something about building a Jewish state with their own interests in mind."

"No kidding. Where?"

"You're sittin' in it."

All they have to do is create a nationwide infrastructure — social, cultural, religious, educational, economic — thus winning popular admiration and support, a successful method used by street-wise Shas.

Think of what an alternative school system would do to enhance the influence of the forlorn Reform and Conservative sects. A hundred schools, from Metulla to Eilat, with high academic standards, preaching both enlightenment and Jewish tradition — and absolutely free, funded entirely by diverted donations.

Such a system already exists (except that it's no more free than the rest of Israel's expensive free education) in the 30

Think of what an alternative school system would do to enhance the influence of the forlorn Reform and Conservative sects.

they may have thought, influential in Israel.

Now, they're saying to the people who run this country, you've gone too far. Cut us out of this circumcision business, and you've bitten off more than you can chew. Or something like that.

This is an interesting confrontation between incongruities: a weak majority versus a strong minority; American democratic values versus Israeli theocratic realities; religious freedom versus political wheel-dealing; "us" Jews versus "them" Jews (or, depending on your predilections, "them" versus "us").

It'll get really interesting if the ReCons carry through their threat, and put their money where their pout is.

There are two approaches they could take to establish influence in this country. Let's call them (a) and, ah, what the heck, (b).

(a) They believe they have justice and reason and morality on their side, but so what? They don't have political clout here, and nothing else counts for much here except, maybe, money.

And money they have. They let us have lots of it, naively assuming their donations make them investors in a partnership with this country, believing we appreciate every hundred million.

Imagine one day UJA in New York calls the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. "Unprecedented year. Beyond our wildest dreams. You wouldn't believe what we col-

Tali schools. Conceived by the Conservatives (and supported by Conservative and Reform), Tali is popular enough to maintain waiting lists so long, you pretty much have to register your child as soon as he's born.

Starting with free day-care, vibrant socio-cultural programs and a no-nonsense primary-secondary system offering enriched education on a par with Diaspora Jewish schools, non-Orthodox Israelis would go gaga.

Conservative and Reform here is more traditional than abroad. They could easily fill a crying need for quality — let me rephrase that: *quality* education in the vast niche between the secular and Orthodox streams.

Of course, the last thing the haredim want is their hated rivals stealing kids away from their grasp and inculcating them under the guise of "Jewish tradition."

The Jewish Agency would be frantic. The secular school system would scramble to adapt. The haredim would be tweaked when the government starts saying: "But on the other hand..." And those nice bareheaded *yidn* who fly here once a year to check on their plaques would find they have, finally, some influence here.

Then there's (b): instead of sending their money, a million of them could bring it, as immigrants. Instead of building schools, they could populate them. Instead of demanding their rights as Zionists, they could win them as Israelis.

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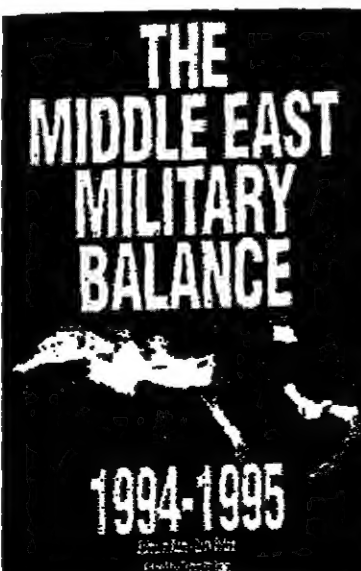
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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Loeb auction fetches \$92 million

One of the world's last great art collections still in private hands fetched \$92.7 million at auction on Monday, setting a record price for a Toulouse-Lautrec and second highest prices for works by Cezanne and Manet. The 29 works from the impressionist collection of New York art lovers Wall Street banker John Loeb and his wife Francine, became the highest total for a single-owner sale in Christie's New York history.

Reuter

### Merhav posts ninth profitable quarter in row

The Merhav Group yesterday announced first quarter net profits of NIS 2.4 million, similar to the same period last year, and a ninth successive profitable quarter, the company announced. Sales totalled dropped NIS2.9m. to NIS 49.2m. The Herzliya-based group, which offers financial services, and participates in international energy and infrastructure projects, said sales were down because of the slowdown in the construction sector.

David Harris

### Sderot firm, American Airlines in \$2m. deal

Sderot-based Extra Plastic Ltd. has won a \$2 million contract to supply American Airlines with 30 million plastic bags over the next three years. The extra strong bags will be used on board AA aircraft. Extra Plastic Ltd. employs 120 people and reported 1996 sales of NIS 40m.

David Harris

## Israeli, Croatian arms firms mull cooperation

By STEVE RODAN

Croatian and Israeli defense contractors are discussing joint marketing and development in such areas as naval vessels and upgrades of former Soviet equipment, officials and industry sources said yesterday.

They said the defense cooperation would be implemented once diplomatic ties are established with Croatia.

Nikola Grabic, mayor of Split, home of Croatia's shipbuilding industry, said yesterday that Israeli cooperation in this field represents a lucrative area. "We have had talks in the [Croatian] shipyards itself regarding this issue," he said. "This is one of the fields of cooperation that we intend to implement."

Grabic, who is visiting Israel, said the talks between Israeli and Croatian defense contractors had been at the exploratory stage.

"In the last talks we have had, it

was interesting to note the joint venture for third markets," he said. "These were the essential talks on cooperation. Now the time has come for more direct talks. We hope that with diplomatic relations we can talk more precisely about business."

Grabic said Israel could also provide technology to Croatia ships, particularly in the areas of computer systems and navigation. Croatia manufactures a range of vessels, including submarines and patrol boats.

Last month, Croatian deputy Economics Minister Jasna Boric said defense cooperation carries the greatest potential in economic relations with Israel.

An Israeli defense source confirmed the contacts between Croatian and Israeli contractors. "What we are talking about is joint marketing to third countries," the source said. "At this point, we are just exploring ideas."

## Finance Ministry seeks to redefine property taxes

Proposals include alternatives for property gains tax

By DAVID HARRIS

Wide-ranging plans for reforms in property tax will form one of the central planks of the soon-to-be-published State Revenues Department's annual report, the Finance Ministry announced this week.

The Treasury released a summary of some of the main recommendations contained in the document.

Among the proposals are:

- Increasing the basis for the annual property tax by abolishing or reducing many of the exemptions available, therefore allowing for a lower tax than the current 2.5 percent. This tax would also replace other existing real estate

taxes.

Various options for implementing this change are being examined, including turning the tax into a one-time sales tax (similar to that proposed two weeks ago by the Gabbai committee).

- Two alternatives will be offered to replace the existing property gains tax: the imposition of two uniform low percentage taxes, one on apartments and a second on real estate; or, conversely, the abolition of the property gains tax and its replacement with a flat value-based tax.

There would be no abolition of or change to the existing property purchase tax.

The report falls short of the Gabbai proposal to completely

abolish the existing property tax, and if adopted will be seen as a further slight to deputy Finance Minister David Magen, who fully endorsed the Gabbai proposals, which had received a less than warm reception from Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy.

The new report will also attempt to explain the failure to meet government revenue estimates in 1996 and give the estimate for the current financial year. The document produced by State Revenue Administration head Tsipi Galyam will point out that much of the shortfall comprised a lack of taxes on real estate because of the slowdown in the construction industry.

Additionally, there was a substantial reduction in the number of

businesses and a significant updating of the purchase tax brackets.

The overall annual 1996 target budget deficit of NIS 7.609 billion was surpassed after the first eight months, but despite this Finance Minister Dan Meridor expressed full satisfaction in his officers, even extending Galyam's contract for a further two years.

The report will also show that of apartments purchased in 1995, 36.5% cost under NIS 300,000, 45.4% cost between NIS 301,000 and NIS 600,000 and 19.1% upwards of NIS 601,000.

The report will also contain a detailed study of women and taxation - including income levels, equality and the tax burden, vehicle taxation, sales tax, and VAT.

## Central bank: No plan to change shekel devaluation pace

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Bank of Israel has denied reports it intends to change the pace of the shekel's devaluation within the so-called diagonal mechanism.

The denial was issued following a report in *Ha'aretz*, which alleged the central bank intends redrawing the axis around which all shekel trading revolves.

That axis, which describes the difference between Israel's inflation target and its major trading partners' expected inflation, is currently geared toward an annual six percent depreciation of the shekel in relation to the central bank's basket of major foreign currencies.

The Bank of Israel allows the shekel to appreciate or depreciate up to 7% from the middle point of that axis, which graphically is a diagonal line running along a 12-month period. Since 1993, the central bank has set this middle line at 6%, but according to the report the bank intends reducing that figure to 4%.

"Such a plan has never been discussed at the bank," according to a central bank statement this week.

However, the central bank would not rule out a possible change to the diagonal mechanism at some point in the future.

"Only after the government makes a decision with regard to the inflation target for 1998 will it be possible to discuss any changes, if at all," the statement said.

It is known that some senior figures in the bank, including David Klein, the head of its monetary division, want to see a degree of change in the diagonal mechanism if not its abolition.

The currencies used against the shekel in the mechanism are the US dollar, Japanese yen, German mark, British pound and French franc. There have been increasing calls from the Treasury and economists for the central bank to make changes to the mechanism, particularly since the dollar is continuing to gain strength against the shekel, causing the bank to purchase large sums of foreign currency.

"The new dollar record has nothing to do with our policy on the diagonal," a central bank spokesman said recently.

There is support for the bank's stance from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's economics adviser Moshe Leon. However, he too is concerned by the cost to the state of keeping within the framework.

State budget director David Milgrom last week claimed the bank's mechanism policy cost the taxpayer some NIS 2 billion in 1996, which contributed to the need for a 1997 budget cut of NIS 7.2b.

The bank responded by suggesting that the cost to the state of not keeping to the framework would have come in the form of higher inflation.

A possible solution to the issue would be the central-bank proposed, immediate liberalization of the currency market. This would allow for an initial revaluation, according to economist Dan Galai, the joint managing director of Sigma Portfolio Selection Consulting & Management Ltd.

In the late summer, the central bank handed a list of liberalization recommendations to the Treasury for its consideration.

While "deliberations are ongoing," according to a ministry spokesman, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the Treasury's failure to formally respond to the proposals.



### Bracing for Australia's budget

Futures traders make signals on the floor of the Sydney Futures Exchange yesterday as the federal budget is handed down by Treasurer Peter Costello. Australia's mid-term budget sent the dollar lower against the US currency, but economists said the budget should be accepted quite well overall by markets.

(Reuters)

## Arison wants Goldman Sachs, Soros for Hapoalim bid

By ORNA RAVIV

US-based businessman Ted Arison is seeking to recruit the Goldman Sachs investment bank and world-renowned financier George Soros to the group with which he is bidding for a controlling share of Bank Hapoalim.

Goldman Sachs and Soros were originally partners in a group which competed in the previous

tender for Bank Hapoalim, along with Arison and Claridge, but ultimately withdrew from that tender.

In the current tender, Arison is competing at the head of a group which includes, among others, Claridge, the Dankner group, the Hyperion fund of the US, and businessman Len Abramson.

Industry insiders believe Arison is aiming to strengthen the group,

fearing that some of his current partners may withdraw by the end of the tender process, though various sources within the group denied that any partners are planning to withdraw.

The sources also confirmed that there have been contacts with Soros and Goldman Sachs, but added that there was "no real progress at this stage."

Should there be withdrawals from the group eventually, those might come following Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles's tightening of the regulations governing the amount of credit a partner in the controlling interest in a bank may take from that bank.

According to the Bank of Israel's new regulations, the amount of credit which a commercial bank may extend to partners in the controlling interest may not exceed 10 percent of the bank's overall capital.

Until recently, that limit was set at 25%.

Globes

## Rafael Eitan speaks at desert forum despite Arab protests

By DAVID HARRIS

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday addressed the Asian anti-desertification conference in Beijing, despite repeated attempts by Arab representatives to prevent Israel's participation, according to the ministry spokesman.

The morning session of the conference was canceled when Arab delegates objected to Eitan speaking from the podium.

The Arab nations present at the conference, led by the Saudis are objecting to Israel's participation on the basis that it is not a member of the Asian bloc at the United Nations.

The hosts China, together with others, including India and Japan, maintain Israel has a right to attend the conference as an Asian state.

After Eitan left the auditorium, a round of negotiations was held

between the organizers and the Arabs in an attempt to resolve the stand-off, according to the ministry spokesman.

At 2:30 p.m. Beijing time, Eitan received a call at his hotel asking him to return to the conference to address those taking part.

The Chinese ruled that as there are no scheduled votes at the conference, it can be deemed to be an informal event.

The Arabs finally agreed not to interfere if Eitan were to speak. The delegates from Lebanon, Iran and Iraq staged a walkout as Eitan reached the lectern to begin his address.

However, those from Jordan, Yemen, Pakistan, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates remained in the auditorium, the ministry spokesman said.

Before Eitan left for China it was clear the Arab delegations would object to his participation, but China and India led a cam-

paign to ensure Israel's full inclusion.

Israel is seen as being one of the world's leading nations in the field, and as such can offer much to many of those taking part, the Chinese said.

During his speech, Eitan pointed out that while Israel comprises just 0.005 percent of Asia, some 90% of the country is considered arid.

"Israel is one of the only nations in Asia that has arid areas but despite that is not affected by desertification," he said, according to the ministry spokesman.

"[Israel] will be delighted to continue to help others on the basis of its experiences and also to learn from others."

Later in the day, Chinese deputy Prime Minister Jiang Chunyun apologized in person to Eitan after the day's events, saying, "this is not what we wanted," according to the ministry spokesman.

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U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
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(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (13.5.97)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rates**
Currency basket	3.8957	3.7259	—	3.6961
U.S. dollar	3.3733	3.4278	3.31	3.48
German mark	1.8658	2.0180	1.95	2.05
Pound sterling	5.4644	5.5226	5.37	5.63
French franc	0.5890	0.5896	0.57	0.61
Japanese yen (100)	2.8347	2.8805	2.78	2.93
Dutch florin	1.7655	1.7840	1.73	1.82
Swiss franc	2.3515	2.3895	2.31	2.43
Swedish krona	0.4895	0.4487	0.43	0.46
Norwegian krona	0.4773	0.4850	0.48	0.50
Denish krone	0.5215	0.5300	0.51	0.54
Finish mark	0.6581	0.6688	0.64	0.68
Canadian dollar	2.4305	2.4689	2.38	2.51
Australian dollar	2.6273	2.6897	2.58	2.71
S. African rand	0.7553	0.7675	0.68	0.77
Belgian franc (10)	0.8620	0.8776	0.84	0.94
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8215	2.8671	2.77	2.91
Italian lire (1000)	2.0045	2.0369	1.97	2.07
Jordanian dinar	4.7578	4.8346	4.70	5.02
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0400	0.95	1.04
ECU	3.8849	3.9273		
Irish punt	5.1156	5.1882	5.02	5.28
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3511	2.3891	2.31	2.43

\*These rates vary according to bank.

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SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

כלכלה וכלכלה







## SPORTS

in brief

## Sinai to coach Maccabi Petah Tikva

Moshe Sinai will take over as coach of Maccabi Petah Tikva next season, the club announced yesterday.

Sinai, who earlier this year was fired as manager of Hapoel Tel Aviv after six seasons in charge, signed a one-year contract with Petah Tikva club heads, brothers Avi and Amos Luzon, estimated to be worth \$90,000.

Other clubs are also looking to hire new coaches next season but nothing has been finalized yet. Among the moves being discussed are those of Betar Jerusalem coach Eli Cohen who is said to be heading for Hapoel Haifa, while Dror Kashtan, who took over from Sinai, looks to be Betar bound.

Ori Lewis

## Aston Villa complete signing of Collymore

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - Aston Villa completed the signing of Liverpool and England striker Stan Collymore yesterday for a club record fee of £7 million (\$11.4 million).

The deal takes the 26-year-old former Nottingham Forest forward's total transfer fees over the last four years to £17.7 million.

Collymore, who cost Liverpool a then British record £8.5 million when he moved to Anfield in June 1993, signed a four-year contract with Villa with a further one year option.

"I used to support Villa as a boy so this is really a dream move home for me," said Collymore who lives only 30 minutes from Villa's training ground.

## 59 held after Bucharest stadium violence

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Romanian authorities have detained 59 soccer fans and fined 1,000 others since supporters set fire to a stand in a Bucharest stadium before a derby match last weekend, police said yesterday.

A police spokesman said an inquiry was continuing into the actions of the 59 fans held in Bucharest jails since last Saturday's match in which Steaua Bucharest beat arch-rivals Dinamo.

The others, charged with minor public order offences, were fined the equivalent of \$3 to \$17 in a country where average monthly wages stand at about \$80.

More than 700 seats were destroyed and police herded some 2,000 supporters out of the stadium into parking lots to identify troublemakers. There were no injuries and the match was delayed only briefly.

## Unknown marksman shoots Spanish referee

MADRID (Reuters) - Spanish police are looking for somebody who shot a referee in the arm during a regional league game.

Jose Miguel del Rio had a pellet removed after being hit while booking a player in Sunday's match between Santa Cruz and Lario, at which there were only 50 spectators.

"The ground is next to a forest, and I'm sure the shot came from there ... I don't believe it was an accident," said del Rio.

## Canada forces third game in world ice hockey finals

HELSINKI (Reuters) - Canada beat Olympic champions Sweden 3-1 yesterday to force a deciding game in the best-of-three gold medal final at the ice hockey world championships.

Canada got second period goals through Geoff Sanderson and Anson Carter then rode the goaltending of Hartford Whalers Sean Burke to a decisive third game today.

In a scoreless first period Canada was able to avoid the costly penalties that led to a 3-2 defeat in game one but continued to be frustrated by New York Islanders goaltender Tommy Salo in the Swedish net.

Canada outshot the Swedes 14-8 but were unable to beat the all-star netminder until midway through

the second when Sanderson broke out of an eight game scoring slump to give them a 1-0 lead.

Travis Green set up the goal as he swung around behind the Sweden net and snapped a wristshot off Salo's mask, the puck deflecting in off Sanderson's stick.

Less than two minutes later Sweden levelled the score on a powerplay by Per Eklund.

Carter sent Canada into the second intermission up 2-1 when the Boston Bruin center took a return pass from Chris Gratton and slapped it into the empty net.

Montreal Canadiens Mark Recchi added an insurance goal early in the third when his weak wrist shot, drifted between Salo's pads.



C'MON GUYS! - Karl Malone calls his Utah Jazz teammates into action against the Lakers. (Reuters)

## Jazz beat Lakers, reach conference final, Knicks up 3-1

SALT LAKE CITY (Reuters) - Karl Malone scored six of his 32 points in overtime and grabbed 20 rebounds to lead the Utah Jazz into the Western Conference finals with a tough 98-93 win over the young Los Angeles Lakers Monday.

"It was a hardfought victory," said Malone.

"They played their butts off, they gave us all we could handle."

The Jazz's 4-1 victory in the best-of-seven series put Utah in the conference finals for the fourth time in six years. The Jazz will play the winner of the other West semifinal between Houston and Seattle.

In Monday's other NBA play-off game, the New York Knicks went up 3-1 over the Miami Heat with an 89-76 victory sparked by 21 points from John Starks and 20 from Patrick Ewing.

The Lakers showed their youth

with a flurry of choke shots at crunch time.

These included an air ball from 25-year-old Nick Van Exel, who led Los Angeles with 26 points, and 18-year-old Kobe Bryant - who had an air ball on a potential game-winner at the end of regulation and three more bad misses, two of them air balls, in overtime.

The Lakers 25-year-old center Shaquille O'Neal fouled out with 1:46 remaining in regulation and Los Angeles leading by three. He finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds.

John Stockton had 24 points on 11-of-13 shooting from the field and 10 assists and Russell added 22 points for the Jazz.

The Jazz extended their home winning streak to 19 games and improved to 43-3 at the Delta Center this season. Utah has the homecourt advantage in the West finals.

## Knicks 89, Heat 76

In New York, Starks, who hit just 5-of-24 shots from the field in the first three games of the series, converted 9-of-12 this time.

New York could close out the series by winning Game 5 tonight in Miami. The Knicks, who are 6-1 in the postseason, have won three of four games at Miami this season.

Allan Houston scored 15 of his 17 points in the first half when the Knicks built a 15-point lead. Houston had 10 points and Starks eight in a decisive 21-5 second-quarter run.

Miami hit just 3-of-13 shots from the field and missed 7-of-15 free throws in the second quarter when they were outscored 28-14, giving New York a 51-36 halftime lead. The Knicks shot 60 percent from the field (9-of-15) in the quarter.

## SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL - Monday's NL games: Atlanta 10, Pittsburgh 2; Colorado 9, Philadelphia 2; Florida 11, Houston 4. Monday's AL games: Milwaukee 9, Seattle 8; Minnesota 12, Toronto 2; Texas 4, Cleveland 2; Baltimore 5, Oakland 1; Anaheim 16, Chicago White Sox 8.

CRICKET - Benson and Hedges Cup results yesterday: At Derby: Warwickshire beat Derbyshire by one wicket. At Lord's: Somerset beat Middlesex by 27 runs.

## LOCAL SCENE

## Yael Arad tops Olympic poll

By HEATHER CHAIT

The Israel Olympic Committee is giving athletes a say in its administration after it held elections last week to choose four sports representatives to sit on its committee.

Ex-judo and Olympic silver medalist Yael Arad, who turned 30 last week, won the elections held for past and present sportspeople who competed in the past three Olympics.

Sixty-two athletes were allowed to choose 6-9 candidates and following Arad who scored 30 votes, were Lydia Hatoel-Zuckerman and Yoav Bruck on 29 and Alex Tripolski on 23.

Badminton: Lior Pugach and Svetlana Silberman won the men and women's national titles in Tel Aviv last week. It was the third time for Pugach who beat Paz Ben Sira 15-2, 15-12 in the final and the sixth for Silberman who defeated Esther Kaufman 11-4, 11-4.

Athletics: Maccabi Netanya's relay team of Rafi Ya'ar, Shmuel Epstein, Tommy Kfir and Kfir Golan won the national relay championship title, setting a new record in the process. In the 4x200 meters, the foursome finished in 1:27.99, knocking 24-hundredths of a second off Hapoel Tel Aviv's previous time. The team also won the 4x100m in 41:76 seconds.

Skydiving: Boaz Goren, accompanied by photographer Yoav Gabai, seized first place in the national championships held off

## Barcelona favorites for fourth Cup Winners crown

ROTTERDAM (Reuters) - Barcelona will be without their hard-tackling defender Miguel Angel Nadal when they attempt to win the European Cup Winners' Cup for an unprecedented fourth time against holders Paris St Germain tonight.

Nadal was sent off during the second leg of Barcelona's semifinal victory over Fiorentina which earned him a two-match ban.

But Bobby Robson is expected to recall French defender Laurent Blanc to the side after Blanc missed Saturday's 1-0 Spanish league win over Real Madrid through injury.

Brazilian Giovanni, injured against Real, is expected to be fit but will probably be on the bench rather than in the starting line-up.

Barcelona's preparations for the match were hit yesterday when their flight to Rotterdam was delayed for four hours because of a bomb scare.

Initially the players were in good spirits but, as the delay lengthened, Robson and the rest of the squad became decidedly irritable and finally got to their beds well past midnight.

The match could well be an open, attacking one, with a fascinating battle in prospect between Ronaldo, Barcelona's Brazilian who has scored 32 goals this season, and the Brazilians in the French side.

Leonardo and Rai. PSG showed in the second leg of their semifinal against Liverpool that they can withstand an attacking bombardment because although they lost that match 2-0 they still went through 3-2 on aggregate after destroying Liverpool with a controlled attacking display in the first leg.

PSG have no suspensions to worry about and are expected to field their strongest side as they bid to become the first team in the competition's 36-year history to retain the trophy.

"Barcelona have been better organized in recent weeks but I can't see any big difference between us and them," PSG's Brazilian coach Ricardo said.

"I'm not building a team to counter Ronaldo, Giovanni, Figo or De la Pena. In a final you must express yourself. Few teams have won a final by relying on counter-attacks alone." Ricardo, however, has a special plan to counter Ronaldo, a player he knows from training camps with Brazil in 1994, by assigning Bruno N'Gotty to shadow him.

"I always play my best matches against the best players."

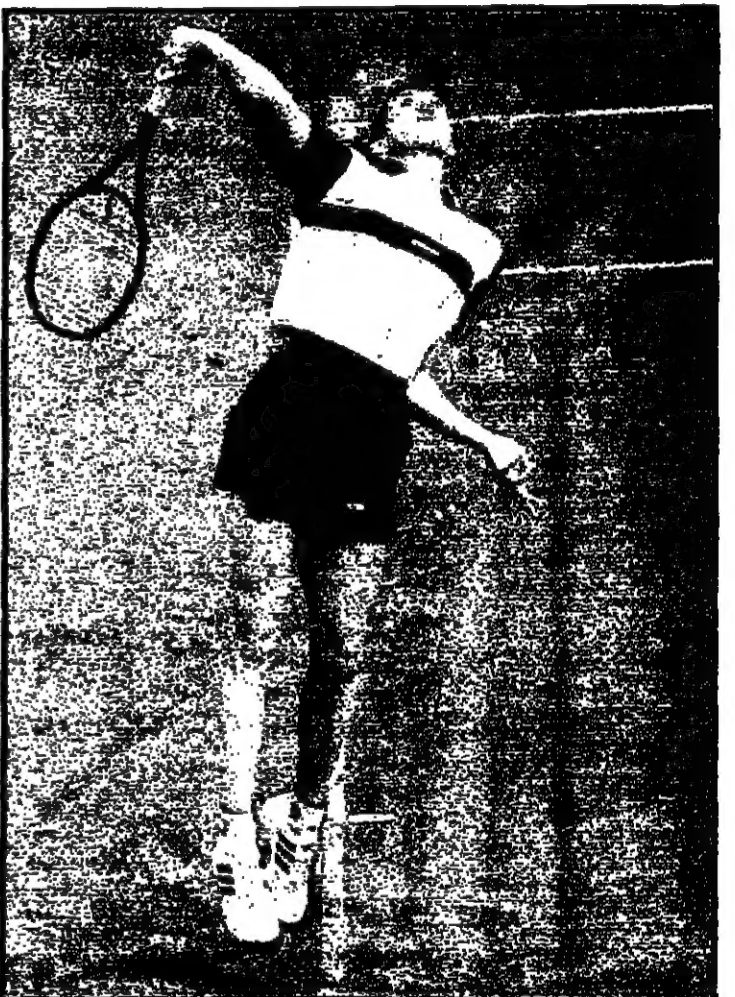
Personally, I wish to become one of the best defenders there is and it's a fine opportunity to prove what I can do," N'Gotty said.

## Sampras dumped in Rome

ROME (Reuters) - Top seed and world No. 1 Pete Sampras crashed out of the Italian Open in the first round yesterday to old friend and unseeded fellow-American Jim Courier 7-6(7-5), 6-4.

It was the second clay court tournament in a row where Sampras had gone out in his first match. He was beaten by Sweden's Magnus Larsson at Monte Carlo last month in his opening clay tournament of the year after a first round bye.

The departure of Sampras left the Italian Open without its top two seeds. Second seed Michael Chang had earlier lost to unseeded Argentine Hernan Gurny 6-3, 6-2. Ironically, it was Gurny who dumped Courier out of the tournament last year.



STRUGGLING TO VICTORY - Steffi Graf, playing her first match after three months out with a knee injury, struggled to a three sets win over American Chanda Rubin at the German Open in Berlin yesterday. Graf, who lost her world No. 1 ranking to Swiss Martina Hingis in March, triumphed 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. (Reuters)

## CLASSIFIEDS

**RATES**  
PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT:  
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Rates are valid until MAY 30 1997.

**DEADLINES:** offices: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday. Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

For telephone enquiries please call 02-5315944.

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## CRITIC'S CHOICE

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Ra'anana Symphonetic Orchestra performs Yehozkel Braun's horn concerto with Michael Shatkin as soloist. The program also features Mozart's Requiem. Music director Yuval Zilouk is on the podium tonight, tomorrow and Saturday (9) in Ra'anana.

The Druid priestess who defied her vestal honor and chose love instead returns to the Mana Auditorium tomorrow night as Alessandra Marc sings Bellini's *Norma* in concert with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Pinchas Steinberg. Barbara Dever is Adalgisa and Alberto Cupido sings Pollicino. Tomorrow (8:30) and Sunday (7).

The Jerusalem Rubin Music Academy marks the 100th anniversary of Brahms's death with two concerts devoted to the composer's piano music. Tonight (8:30) pianists Michael Bugoslavsky, Isser Slonim, Eitan Globerson and duo pianists Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir perform while next Wednesday it is Liora Ziv Li, Allan Sternfeld, Irina Berkovich and Bruce Levy who play Brahms. Both concerts are at Hall 221 of the Academy in Jerusalem.

## DEBATES

HELEN KAYE

Sci-fi devotees can get a jolt of reality when the newly formed Israel Science Fiction Association holds its first debate, on "Genetic Engineering - Reality versus Literature." The panel includes association chairman and translator Emanuel Lotem and Hebrew University professor Hermona Shuruk. Tonight at Tzavva Tel Aviv at 8 p.m. (Hebrew)

The penultimate Emile Habibi Debate deals with "The Press - a Bridge of Paper," asking to what extent the Israeli press is instrumental in building bridges between Arab and Jewish cultures. The panel includes journalists from the Israeli and Arab press. Tonight at the Jerusalem Khan at 8:30 (Hebrew)

## FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★1/2 THE ENGLISH PATIENT - A respectably made bit of high-class kitsch, a sometimes moving, often rather silly love story set in a series of exotic locales. The basic outline - a flashback-filled romance, set in the Sahara and northern



Barbara Dever stars in the IPO's concert version of Bellini's *Norma*.

Italy before, during and just after World War II - is that of the original novelist Michael Ondaatje. But a floridly picturesque look, grand, sandy landscapes, a dripping symphonic score and an unabashedly swoony approach to the doomed lovers at its center render Anthony Minghella's Oscar-winning film a tribute to the golden old Hollywood of *Casablanca* and *Lawrence of Arabia*. At two hours and 40 minutes, it's much too long. With Ralph Fiennes, Kristin Scott Thomas and Juliette Binoche. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

## TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Few will dispute the fact that *Seinfeld* changed the face of American comedy. Yet it took time for audiences to get used to the unconventional concept. The cast has not changed in the five seasons it's been running, and Jerry Seinfeld, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Jason Alexander and Michael Richards have only improved with time. For those who never got to see the first seasons, or for those addicts who will watch them all over again, Channel 3 is to screen the first four seasons of this landmark show every night, Sunday through Thursday at 11.

## TV

## CHANNEL 1

8:30 News flash  
8:31 News in Arabic  
8:45 Exercise Time  
7:00 Good Morning Israel

## EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 On War and Peace  
8:30 How to Draw  
9:00 Social Sciences  
9:30 English  
9:45 For the very young  
10:15 100 Years of Zionism  
11:15 Geography  
11:40 Judaism  
12:35 Science and Technology  
13:00 In the Heat of the Night  
14:00 Surprise Train  
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy  
14:35 Quentin Quack  
15:00 Animals

## CHANNEL 1

18:30 The Adventures of Asterix  
18:50 Super Ben  
18:59 A New Evening  
17:34 Zappy Culture  
18:15 News in English

## ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Four Seasons  
18:50 News in Arabic  
19:00 News  
19:30 News  
20:45 Conference Call  
21:20 The Cape  
22:30 No News  
23:00 Next of Kin  
23:30 News  
00:00 Daily Verse

## CHANNEL 2

8:15 Today's Programs  
8:30 Johnny Quest  
8:50 The Morning  
9:00 Rivka Michael  
9:55 Senora  
10:48 Dynasty  
11:40 Yaron London's  
11:50 The Morning  
12:45 Israel music  
13:00 Kate and Ellie  
13:30 Open Cards  
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## 19:35 Grace Under Fire

## 20:00 Soldier's Diary

## 20:30 Challenges

## 21:10 Spenser for Hire

## 22:00 News in English

## 22:25 Cobra

## 23:15 Hart to Hart

## 23:45 The Goodbye Outlaws (1970) - a pair of hapless cowboys are fired and go off to conquer showbiz

## 13:00 Sealing Stars

## 13:50 A Home of Our Own (1993) - drama about a hard-working widow with six children on a deserted Idaho farm. With Kathy Bates

## 15:40 Perfect Family (1992) - a man whose wife and daughter died in a mysterious accident moves in with his sister. With Jennifer O'Neil

## 17:15 Murder on the Island Trail (1996) - with Corbin Bernsen and Kate Jackson

## 18:50 The Bold and the Beautiful

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# Israel: Naval exercises with Turkey on

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israeli defense officials and the Turkish military have denied claims by Turkey's Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan that the joint naval maneuvers planned between Israel, Turkey and the US for this summer have been postponed for years.

In Ankara, Erbakan, whose pro-Islamic Welfare party vigorously opposes relations with Israel, emerged from a meeting with a visiting Iraqi justice minister and

told journalists that the maneuvers "are postponed to coming years." The announcement came just a week after Israeli, Turkish and American officers concluded an agreement to hold joint naval maneuvers in the Mediterranean this summer. The exercises were to be of a humanitarian nature and focus on search and rescue procedures.

"The joint cooperation between Israel and Turkey, including the naval exercise, is a common interest of both countries,"

said Avi Benyahu, media adviser for Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, in reaction to the report.

"Until this moment, Israel has not received any information or an official announcement to postpone the maneuvers," Benyahu said.

In Turkey, military officials also denied that there was to be any postponement of the exercises planned for this summer.

"Such a delay can only be decided joint-

ly by all three countries involved," an unidentified Turkish military official told the Associated Press.

Mordechai has placed great importance on the joint maneuvers, soliciting the US to participate. He has said he believes the naval exercise would serve as a show of stability and strength in the eastern Mediterranean that would help quell potential dangers.

Erbakan's surprise statement came just a week after the deputy chief of staff of

the Turkish army, Gen. Cevik Bir, led a 23-member delegation to Tel Aviv, where Israel and Turkey laid down the groundwork for the strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Last month, the Turkish Parliament ratified a pact expected to quadruple bilateral trade to \$2 billion by the year 2000. Israel Aircraft Industries is currently upgrading 54 of Turkey's F-4 fighter jets in a deal worth over \$600 million and other military deals are in the works.

## 5 more 'Russian mafia' workers held

By RAINE MARCUS

Five people suspected of working for an alleged "Russian mafia" head, Zvi Ben-Ari (aka Gregory Lerner), were detained yesterday by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court on suspicion of involvement in \$85 million in bank fraud, possession of arms, conspiracy to murder, and murder.

Ben-Ari, 46, was arrested early Monday and remanded later that day for six days on suspicion of murder, conspiracy to murder, money laundering, bank fraud, foreign currency offenses and other crimes.

The Serious Crimes Squad has for nearly a year been investigating Ben-Ari, who changed his name when he immigrated here.

Ben-Ari has luxurious offices in Tel Aviv. One of his companies here, which according to police was used for laundering money earned from international criminal activities, promised clients, especially foreign citizens, "impossibly high" interest on investments.

Five of his employees, Natalya Lujanskia, Ilana Rubinstein, Felix Heimsky, Victor Fabrik and Fabel Slumiansky, all residents of Ashkelon and, suspected by police of being involved in serious crimes, were remanded yesterday for six days.

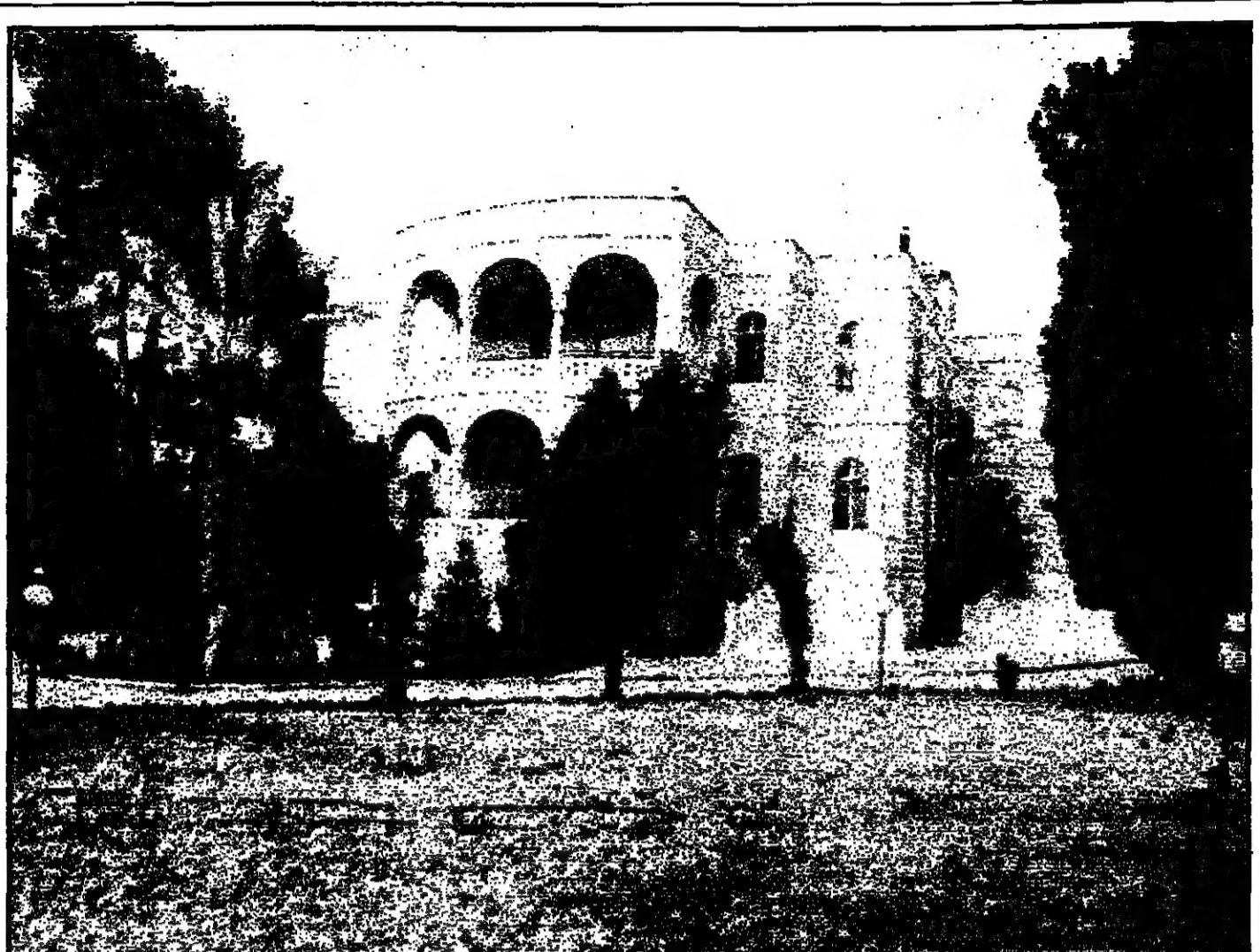
Rubinstein is the widow of a member of the Russian mafia who was murdered in Russia over a year ago. According to the National

Crimes Squad, they were paid high bonuses out of money earned by Ben-Ari's fraud schemes in Russia and in Europe. During a search of their homes police confiscated a hunting rifle with telescopic sight, \$500,000 in cash, NIS 65,000, two forged passports, satellite phones and nine computers.

Ben-Ari was arrested at 1 a.m. Monday at Ben-Gurion Airport as he was about to board a plane to the US. Police believe the millionaire is responsible for the murder of a banker in Russia, a \$85 million fraud scam there, the attempted murder of a banker and others in Europe and Russia and other related crimes.

A TV program around six months ago showed the affluent lifestyle of the newly rich millionaire, who claimed to have earned his fortune by hard work. However, he has been under surveillance for nearly a year, and police also gathered information from Russia and the US.

Ben-Ari allegedly transferred his fortune from company to company, here and abroad. He is considered one of the richest men in Israel, owning six villas. He immigrated here in 1989, and was arrested in Switzerland in 1991, by request of Russian police, on suspicion of extortion. He was imprisoned and then released. Now police here believe they have arrested one of the most powerful and dangerous heads of the Russian mafia.



A new home

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem's (ICEJ) new international headquarters in the German Colony, is to open officially tomorrow. The embassy moved to the larger facility to prepare for the many Christian tourists expected in 2000. (ICEJ)

## Former Ethiopian immigrant security agents demand compensation

By LIAT COLLINS

Several Ethiopian immigrants who worked there for Israeli security agencies before their aliyah, met yesterday with MKs Yehor Stern (Yisrael Ba'Aliyah) and Gideon Ezra (Likud) to request that the authorities recognize

their work and compensate them. Stern and Ezra agreed to help liaise between the immigrants and the security establishment. Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, also reportedly promised that the subcommittee on secret services would

discuss the issue. Some of the immigrants, who worked there in two groups in the early 1980s and 1990s, were arrested in Ethiopia. They were not paid for their work helping others emigrate to Israel and have not received any recognition or compensation here.

Zeev Kasso, a spokesman for the group, told the MKs: "The fact that the establishment has ignored the emigration activists has caused them mental anguish and in some cases caused the break-up of their families. It's absolutely inconceivable that the establishment should shirk responsibility for these people, who saved nearly 30,000 Jews from death."

Stern said the affair raised questions about the relationship between the secret services and those they operate. "I fear they act differently toward those they mobilize abroad, and treat them as foreigners. They would not behave this way to an Israeli agent."

## Local authorities on strike today

J'lem, TA, Haifa, Beersheba, Rishon Lezion excluded

By DAVID HARRIS

Local authorities across the country begin strike action today in all services other than education, as they step up their opposition to what they see as the lack of funding from the central government.

It is anticipated that some 10 authorities will not take part in the strike, including Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, and Rishon Lezion.

The situation is unacceptable and catastrophic, according to Union of Local Authorities (ULA) chairman Adi Eldar. The current overall deficit of the local authorities stands at NIS 4 billion, and in both April and May workers at dozens of authorities have not been paid.

The decision to strike was taken following a meeting yesterday afternoon among senior ULA officials, Interior Minister Eli Shuss, and Finance Minister Dan Meridor. The local authorities

are demanding an initial NIS 2b. this year, to be followed by a further NIS 2b. over the next two years.

"The money we are demanding now isn't going into the mayors' pockets, but straight to the people who use our services," said Eldar. "If Meridor doesn't change his approach, he'll have to decide, do we leave garbage on the floor, or close classrooms."

"While the authorities' campaign is more than justified, the struggle should not be implemented through strikes, that punish local residents," said Rishon Lezion Mayor Meir Nitzan. Instead, he is suggesting the local authorities turn to the legal system for help.

The monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership met in Shfarim yesterday to discuss the plight of the debt-ridden Arab councils.

The 53 Arab councils have accumulated debts totalling



Adi Eldar (Hanan Guttman)

some NIS 450 million and several have been unable to pay their workers, some for a number of months.

The monitoring committee, comprising Arab MKs, council heads, and leading public figures,

had been due to consider calls for a general strike of the Arab sector beginning with a shutdown of municipal services and closure of all schools.

It was decided, however, in view of the scheduled ULA strike, not to take any independent action for the time being.

Meanwhile, two other groups are also staging strike action commencing this week or next. Junior academic staff at Tel Aviv, Haifa, Bar-Ilan, and Hebrew universities walked off the job yesterday, after failure to reach agreement with management on a new wage agreement. No time limit has been placed on the stoppage.

Some 2,000 district nurses in 500 health centers across the country will begin industrial action next Tuesday. This follows disagreement between the Health Ministry and municipalities over their employment.

David Rudge and Irit contributed to this report.

### TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

#### INAUGURATION OF THE MYRIAM LEBACH CHAIR IN MOLECULAR NEURODEGENERATION

Lectures:  
Professor Robert D. Terry  
University of California, San Diego  
Alzheimer's Disease: How It All Began

Professor Daniel M. Michaelson  
Incumbent of the Chair  
Alzheimer's Disease Research: Hurdles and Hopes

on Sunday, 18 May 1997, at 4:00 p.m.  
at the Dolfi Ebnar Auditorium, Sackler Health Sciences Complex  
Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv

Entrance through Austria Gate (1)

The public is invited



Ministry of Science

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FUZZY LOGIC

Eminent scientists in the field of Fuzzy Logic, from Israel and abroad, will participate in the conference, to be held under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, on May 18-21, 1997, at the Ganei Moriah Hotel, Zichron Ya'acov.

Lectures will be offered in five main subjects:

1. The theory of fuzzy logic
2. Fuzzy logic and neural networks
3. Fuzzy expert systems
4. Uncertainty management and fuzzy logic
5. Fuzzy logic and applications

For information concerning professional matters, contact  
Prof. Moti Schneider, Chairman of the Organizing Committee,  
Tel. 03-502-6731, Fax. 03-502-6733

For details and registration, contact  
Becki Shimon, Head of the Conference Unit, Ministry of Science,  
Tel. 02-581-1220, Fax. 02-582-4022

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## Non-Orthodox conversions abroad not accepted - petition

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

The Interior Ministry has over the past few months refused to recognize non-Orthodox conversions carried out abroad, a petition to the High Court of Justice charged yesterday.

The petition was filed on behalf of two families whose adopted children were converted abroad and the Movement for Progressive Judaism, by the Israel Religious Action Center and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

The Milstein family adopted a baby boy in Uzbekistan, the petition says, and applied to the Beersheba Rabbinate to arrange his conversion immediately after returning to Israel. There they were told that the conversion was conditional on a commitment from the parents that their son would observe a religious lifestyle.

The parents were warned that the child would be checked at the age of six or seven and, if he was not religious, the conversion would be canceled.

With the help of the movement, the Milsteins had their son converted in the Reform religious court in London. They

then applied to the ministry to register him as a Jew. The ministry, the petition says, recognized him as an Israeli citizen but refused to register him as a Jew.

The second child, a baby girl, was adopted by the Magen family in Guatemala and they took her to London where she also underwent a Reform conversion. As in the previous case, the petition says, the ministry refused to recognize the conversion.

The petition refers to a 1989 precedent in which the High Court of Justice ruled that the ministry must register as Jewish any immigrant who can prove that he has converted abroad, whether in a Reform, Conservative or Orthodox ceremony. In the case of a minor, it is sufficient for the parents to declare that the child will be brought up as a Jew and for a boy to have a brit mila.

In 1990, another case was brought to the court and the court again ruled that a non-Orthodox conversion abroad had to be accepted by the ministry.

The petition requests that the court therefore order the ministry to abide by its earlier ruling.

## Hizbullah steps up war against SLA

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah is intensifying its psychological war against the South Lebanese Army, despite the failure of its attempt on Monday to capture the SLA's Souq position in the eastern sector of the security zone.

At least four of its gunmen were killed and several others wounded in the assault, which was repulsed by the SLA troops manning the post with the aid of the IDF. Nevertheless, Hizbullah, which has so far only officially announced the death of one fighter, yesterday tried to portray the operation as a success.

Hizbullah television said the assault units had called on SLA soldiers in two firing positions to surrender, but instead they started shooting and had to be eliminated. Four SLA soldiers were wounded in the attack as well as an IDF soldier, but there were no fatalities.

The organization's radio station maintained that the attack had shown that the "Zionist promises" that they were fully supporting the (SLA) collaborators and providing them with the latest gear "were empty and that the SLA troops were being used as 'smbdags'." No mention was made of the fact that the attackers retreated, leaving the bodies of gunmen killed in the battlefield.